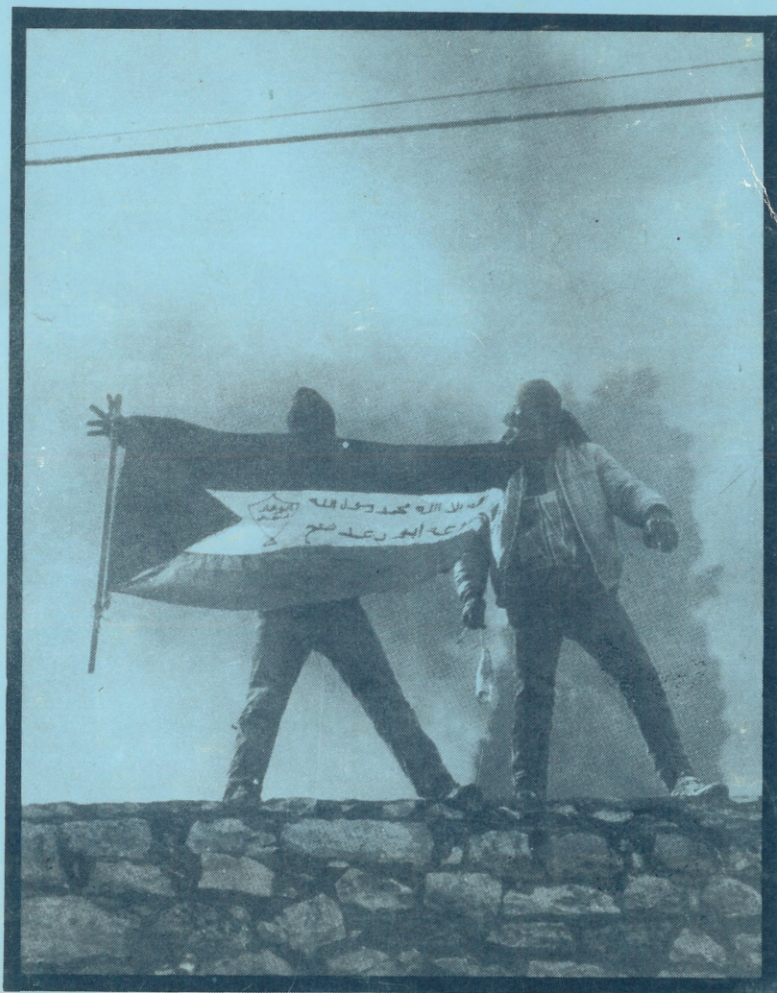


# Children of the Stones

Reports Affidavits and Statements  
from the occupied territories





# **CHILDREN OF THE STONES**

## **Reports, Affidavits and Statements from The Occupied Territories**

In December, 1987 four Gazans were killed and several injured when an Israeli military vehicle ran into a truck transporting them to jobs inside Israel. The residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip believed the act to be deliberate and spontaneous protests soon erupted. The tragedy sparked off a long-simmering mood of frustration among residents of the territories over Israel's occupation policies, and found expression in a community-wide uprising which has captured the world's attention and continues unabated to this day. Many economic and political factors contribute to this feeling of frustration which may explain the continuing, high level of community-wide defiance of Israeli military rule. Enclosed is material concerning one very important source of that frustration which may help to explain the intensity and duration of the current tensions.

Those in the forefront of the current challenge to Israeli military rule in the Occupied Territories are the "shebab", youngsters, both boys and girls, ranging in age from pre-adolescence to young adulthood. Recently some Israeli officials expressed "shock" at the attitude of these youngsters who face tanks and heavily-armed soldiers with nothing more than stone taunting and daring the soldiers to kill them.

The enclosed information will help to explain the phenomenon of children who are unafraid of death — children who continue to defy a heavily-armed military force carrying out in full a policy of beatings, imprisonment.

## A F F I D A V I T

I, Karen White, an American citizen, do hereby swear that witnessed the following :

1) On Friday, January 29, 1988, at about 4:00 p.m., I was walking near Palestine Square in Gaza City. About thirty feet away a car was approaching with a man and a boy of nine or ten years of age in the front seat. As the car moved slowly past a group of six Israeli military troops, one of the soldiers opened the car door on the passenger side, took a fistful of hair on top of the boy's head, and pulled the child from the car, dragging him along the ground for about five feet. While the child lay on the ground, this soldier kicked the child's face and chest, then bent over the boy. The child stood and this soldier and three others slapped him on the face and head. One soldier pushed the boy backward with his hands but the boy did not fall. Another soldier grabbed the boy around his upper right arm and shoved him downward onto the ground, ordering him to pick up orange peels on the road. At this point I turned the corner and they were out of sight.

2) On the next street where I walked a few moments later, I observed a foot patrol of about ten Israeli military troops walking directly ahead of me. I noticed an elderly man standing with a cane some 15 feet ahead of me. I observed one of the passing soldiers kick outward with his foot, karate-style, and kick the elderly man in his genitals. The soldier did not break his stride and continued walking with the foot patrol as they all laughed.

3) On Saturday, January 30, 1988, at about 9:45 p.m., I was walking in a side alley running parallel to Omar Al-Mukhtar Street in Gaza City. I was with a friend from Scotland, Catriona Drew, and we both noticed a large number of Israeli military troops on Omar Al-Mukhtar street. As we passed through the alley, four Israeli soldiers began to follow us, shouting at us to halt. We stopped, turned and asked what they wanted. They demanded we present some identification, which we did. Catriona and I continued to walk, and as we approached Omar Al-Mukhtar street, observed the following :

At the intersection faced by the Al-Omari mosque, there were about 20 schoolgirls, aged 12-17 standing on the road. I saw two small stones fall into the street, coming from the opposite direction from where the girls stood. At the other end of the block, a youth of 17 or 18 stood alone, facing the opposite direction from the soldiers. I observed a large number of Israeli soldiers running toward him from behind. The soldiers all began to club, kick, slap and punch the boy. I did not see this boy throw any stones, and the two that landed in the intersection had been thrown from the other end of the block, from over the buildings, and not thrown from the street. This was the only boy in sight, and other than the schoolgirls and two elderly women, there were no other people, save the soldiers, on the street.

Two more jeeps came onto the block (making a total of five jeeps there), and several Israeli military troops got out. Four of them appeared to be sharpshooters and they had special guns. The four placed

themselves in front of the group of school girls and took aim at the chest and head-level of the group, about ten feet from them. Catriona and I quickly placed ourselves in their line of fire the soldiers stood about for a moment got in their jeeps and left, stopping about three blocks away. I emphasize that these girls were not throwing stones, and at no time during this incident were these soldiers' lives at risk.

As Catriona and I turned to leave, we heard terrible screaming behind us. We turned and saw several Israeli soldiers dragging the young man along the ground on his back, kicking him over his entire body, stomping on his abdomen and genitals, punching him with their fists, and pounding him with wooden truncheons. The boy's head, face and neck were entirely covered with blood, and his nose was obviously broken. He had deep, bleeding gashes on his forearms. The Israeli soldiers pulled him upward and as the boy began to stand, one soldier kicked him twice in the genitals. As the boy doubled over in pain, another soldier kicked him under the chin and the boy fell backward. As he sat on the ground, three soldiers delivered several punches to his face and neck. Then one soldier grabbed his hair and pulled the boy to his feet. He was then pushed and pulled across the street where the soldiers handcuffed him to a door of a closed shop on the street.

While they pushed and pulled him to the opposite side of the street, one Israeli soldier held the boy's arm outward and struck it repeatedly with a wooden truncheon. They then handcuffed him to the door, and one soldier took the boy's head in his two hands and bashed his head as hard as he could repeatedly against the door. The door was covered with the boy's blood. We protested to the Israeli soldiers that we had witnessed the boy had not thrown any stones and was innocent, that he was not resisting arrest, and that we believed the soldiers did not respond but continued to beat the boy viciously.

At this point I noticed four soldiers take aim with their rifles at a small girl, aged about 11 or 12 and she fled. The Israeli troops ran after her and I followed them into an alley. All four soldiers raised their truncheons high overhead as the girl cowered against the alley wall, but before they could deliver any blow I had pulled one of them off her. They lowered their truncheons. One of the soldiers had grasped the girl tightly around the upper arm and she whimpered in pain. Another of the four soldiers appeared as if in a frenzy. He shook violently, began screaming, turned and smashed the two headlights and windshield of a car parked in the alley, with the driver inside. This Israeli soldier continued to scream unintelligible while he pounded the car with his wooden truncheon, even after all the glass had been smashed. I believed, based on the violent behavior of the soldiers, that had I not intervened, the child may have been seriously injured, as these soldiers appeared to me to be out of control. It seemed to me that the reason they lowered their truncheons was because I was foreigner and observing them.

The girl ran away and followed the four Israeli soldiers back into Omar Al-Mukhtar street. I went back to the youth where he was still handcuffed to the door and seven soldiers were still beating him. As I came to him, one Israeli soldier kicked him in his genitals and when the

boy bent down, the soldier hit him with his fist in the boy's already-bloodied face. I asked the boy what his name was. He was screaming with pain and fear and responded loudly several times, "Mohammed Said Al-Jamallah". The boy's little sister, who appeared to be about 13 or 14 years old, was standing next to him, screaming. The soldiers began to strike the boy with butts of their guns in his face, head, chest, stomach, abdomen and knees, simultaneously. Two more jeeps pulled up and Israeli military troops got out. I had asked one of the soldiers who had been present all along who their commanding officer was, and he said it was he, Tommy Lugovsky. I took a pen and some paper from my coat pocket to note the name. Another Israeli soldier screamed at me, "why are you writing his name?" I responded that I was writing a report. The same soldier then screamed at me, "for who?" I replied that it was for a friend in the United States Congress. This Israeli soldier grabbed the paper from my hand and tore it to pieces, using his teeth. Catriona and I turned to watch them drag the boy to one of the jeeps. One soldier promised the boy's sister that the boy would not be beaten any more. Catriona and I approached the jeep before they put the boy in and asked which hospital he would be taken to, and were told a "military hospital". As we approached the jeep, I was punched once in my stomach with a truncheon and once with a fist. Another Israeli soldier behind me hit me several times on my back with the butt of his M-16 rifle.

The Israeli soldiers picked the boy up and threw him over the side of the jeep. We heard his head strike the floor of the jeep. Seven soldiers got into the jeep with the boy and began to pound him very hard with wooden truncheons (one of the truncheons broke, the blow was so forceful), kick him, strike him with their fists, and hit him with their rifle butts, simultaneously.

A physician and two elderly Muslim priests were trying to get the soldiers to allow them to treat the boy's wounds. These three were struck by wooden truncheons and fists by the Israeli military troops. Only when the soldiers prepared to leave did people other than the schoolgirls and two elderly women appear in the street. Again, I emphasize that *at not time* were the Israeli military troops' lives in danger; there were no riots, demonstrations or other activities in the street that would justify such excessive force. The boy was not resisting arrest, but was pleading for mercy and protesting his innocence all along. In fact, it appeared to me that it was the Israeli military troops who were out of control. The neighborhood residents did not respond to the boy's screams for help, nor to his sister's entreaties.

At this point, a group of very small children, aged about four to eight years old, appeared at the entry to an alleyway close by. Four Israeli military troops began screaming and yelling and ran after them, truncheons high overhead and ready to strike. One Israeli soldier stopped to aim his rifle at the children. I yelled for him to stop, and when they turned and saw me, they walked away.

As Catriona and I began to leave the street, an Israeli jeep turned the corner directly in front of us, about five feet away. The Israeli soldier-

driver reached out at an innocent passerby, grabbing the man's shirt-front and yanked him toward the window of the jeep, muttering something through his clenched teeth. I leaned into the window with my camera; the Israeli soldier released the man's shirt and turned his head saying "no pictures, no pictures".

At 3:30 p.m. that day I was passing this street in a car. I observed two Israeli military jeeps parked there, full of Israeli military troops. One of the soldiers, standing by a jeep, threw what appeared to be a large rock upward toward a window on the second floor of the building, smashing it. Later that night I heard a news broadcast on Jordan television stating that 18 people, mostly women and young girls, had been hospitalized at Shifa hospital for serious injuries they sustained from beatings by Israeli soldiers in the late afternoon in that part of Gaza City.

When I had passed by at 3:30 p.m. that I noticed the street was completely deserted, except for the Israeli soldiers throwing rocks through the windows.

I, Jonathan Kuttav, advocate in Jerusalem, state that Karen White, who is known to me personally, appeared front in of me in my office and after I informed her that she must tell the truth or otherwise be punished according to criminal law, did so swear to me and signed this document.

February 7, 1988  
Jonathan KUTTAB  
Karen WHITE

## A F F I D A V I T

I, Castriona Drew, a British citizen, domiciled in Scotland, do hereby give the following statement:

On Saturday, January 30, 1988, at sometime between 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Karen White, an American friend, and I were walking toward Omar A-Mukhater Street In Gaza City, on our way to the Gaza Bar Association. As we walked up an alley, just off Omar Al-Mukhatar Street, we were followed by four Israeli soldiers. They commanded us to halt and demanded to see our identification papers. We produced them and then continued to walk on to Omar Al-Mukhatar Street.

Apart from a large number of soldiers the street was virtually deserted. There was a strike and all the shops were closed. The troops were positioned in pairs every ten feet or so. There were two jeeps in the middle of the road. On the other side of the street, across from where we were walking, stood a group of girls. To my left, I saw two stones arcing through the air, but from where I was standing, it was impossible to see who had thrown them. The stones did not seem to be aimed at anyone and landed in the middle of the road. Suddenly, there was a flurry of activity as jeeps raced up the street and parked in front of the group of girls. Soldiers inside the vehicles and others on the road aimed their rifles at the girls. The girls shouted but did not move away. Karen and I

immediately ran over and stood between the soldiers and the girls. I swear that the stones that were thrown came from the opposite direction and were not thrown by any of the girls or indeed by anyone on the street. After a few minutes the jeeps moved away.

Karen and I were about to leave when we heard screaming and shouting behind us. The soldiers had grabbed a teenage boy who had been standing further down the street. They were beating him severely. Dragging him along the ground, they repeatedly kicked him in the head and the genitals, and punched him and beat him with their wooden truncheons. I saw one of the soldiers take off the boy's shoes and throw them down the street. Another tied his hands behind his back with a piece of synthetic string. When the boy was on the ground the soldiers stamped on his hands. After about ten minutes of this behavior, the soldiers managed to haul him across the street and he was then handcuffed to the front door of one of the shops, in a kneeling position.

Thus tied, one soldier took the boy's head and repeatedly banged it against the metal door; another kicked him again and again in the genitals. The boy was screaming and crying. The boy's little sister, who looked about 12 years old, was hysterical. Each time she tried to reach her brother, she was dragged away and beaten. Then the boy's mother, I think, and some other female relatives or neighbors arrived. The soldiers forced them back, hitting and pushing them. Two of them looked over 40 years old. The soldiers told me to tell the women that if they interfered, the boy would be taken away. If they kept back, the soldiers would allow them to take him home. When I told the women this, they did not try to approach the boy again. All this time, Karen and I persistently demanded to see the commanding officer and continually tried to stop the soldiers from beating the boy by physically intervening. The commanding officer, who had been present the entire time, eventually identified himself. We told him that we had seen that the boy had not thrown stones. We also demanded the boy be taken to a hospital. The officer, who told us his name was Tommy Lugovsky, replied angrily, telling us to "shut up" and to leave the area immediately. As Karen noted his name on a piece of paper, I witnessed a soldier pull her papers from her and tear them apart in his mouth. He then stuffed them in the rubbish bin.

I suddenly saw Karen racing after four soldiers who were pursuing a young girl and she disappeared out of sight. I stayed with the boy. I remember seeing one soldier smash the boy in the face with his fist. His nose, mouth and head were already covered with blood; his shirt was drenched with blood and stained red. I tried to prevent the soldiers from kicking the boy standing in front of him. One soldier, however, continued to beat him on the genitals with his truncheon and I was struck as the soldier pummeled the boy. The Israeli soldiers did not seem to be disciplined. Many seemed out of control and were screaming at the boy and pounding him needlessly. Tied to the shop door as he was, the boy was incapable of putting up any sort of defense.

The entire incident lasted for about one hour. The boy was then untied from the door (his hands, however, were still tied) and he was



hauled toward the awaiting jeep. Karen and I again demanded that the boy be taken to a hospital and requested that we be allowed to accompany him. An attending officer, who had just arrived, told us the boy was going to hospital. We asked which one and were told a "military hospital". The boy was thrown onto the floor of the jeep. Some soldiers got in and immediately started to beat him again with rifles, boots and truncheons. As Karen and I tried to approach the jeep I witnessed one of the soldiers (the one who had torn up Karen's notes) punched Karen in the stomach and hit her with his rifle. The little sister of the injured boy tried to chase the jeep as it drove off. She was hit by one of the soldiers.

I again protested to the ~~said~~ attending officer. He told me that this is "what happens to Palestinians who throw stones. A stone can kill a soldier... they ought to be beaten". When I told him that I was there and that the boy had not thrown any stone, he replied, "he must have done something or he wouldn't have been beaten". I then told him that "even if he had thrown twenty stones it wouldn't justify such an excessive and wholly unreasonable use of force". He told me to leave the area.

As we left, a soldier in a jeep pulled around the corner and called a Palestinian man to approach the jeep. As the man did so, the soldier caught him on the front of his clothing and said something to him which I couldn't understand. Karen went to the jeep window and prepared to take a photograph but was prevented from doing so when the soldier said, "no pictures, no pictures". He then let the man go. I could not see why the soldier had summoned him in the first place.

For fear of being arrested, Karen and I started to leave immediately. A doctor stopped and offered us a lift in his car. He told us that he had tried to persuade the Israelis to let him help the boy and give him, first-aid, treatment. The soldiers had refused and one of them had punched him.

I, Walid Fahoum, advocate in Nazareth, state that Catriona Drew, British citizen, Passport No. G-419785 A, who is known to me personally, appeared in front of me in my office, and after she had been informed she must tell the truth or otherwise be punished according to criminal law, did so swear to me and signed this document.

February 3, 1988  
Walid FAHOUM  
Catriona Drew

## A F F I D A V I T

PROFESSOR YUSED MAHDI, Gaza physician, Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, Scotland. Dr. Mahdi was a witness to the incident on Omar Al-Mukhter Street in Gaza on Saturday, January 30, 1988.

I was riding in my car eastward on Omar Al-Mukhtar Street on my way to work. I stopped the car. My attention was attracted by a youngster, around whom several soldiers stood, hitting and striking him with truncheons, gun butts and fists, as well as kicking him. I saw

that the boy had his back turned to the group in the street. Other eyewitnesses also say he did not throw stones. His sister was crying beside him. She was saying that they had been shopping for food for the family. They had not been demonstrating. When I saw the condition the boy was in, I tried to assist the injured youngster because I saw so much blood on his face, neck and other parts of his body. I tried by asking the Israeli army lieutenant, "Can I help this injured person as I am a doctor, a surgeon?" He replied, "We will get a doctor for treatment". I then said, "The sooner, he receives treatment the better".

I tried for more than ten minutes to convince the Israeli officer to take the injured boy asking if could please treat him. He told me to get away from the area. One young soldier hit me on my back with his wooden truncheon once. The soldiers dragged the boy along the ground. When he was put in the back of the jeep, and five or six soldiers got in, they hit him with truncheons, gun butts, kicking and punching him on all parts of his body. I discovered the boy's name was Mohamed Said Al-Jamallah.

## **A F F I D A V I T**

EIMAN AL-JAMALLAH, 14 years old, sister of Mohammed Said Al-Jamallah : On Saturday, January 30, 1988 I was at school but decided to go home. On my way home I met my brother Mohammed, who is 18 years old. There was a demonstration in the street but we tried to pass it. He was on his way to buy food for home. Suddenly we saw soldiers and all the boys began to run. We began to run too because we were afraid. I saw some girls and stood with them. The soldiers had formed into two groups. One of the groups ran after the running boys. The other group of soldiers stood beside the group of girls, all of us were less than 17 years old. The Israeli soldiers beat all of us with their wooden truncheons, slapping our faces, and beating us with gun butts and kicking us all over our bodies.

I then saw my brother being beaten by about 15 soldiers. His head and face were bleeding. The second group of soldiers began to beat him, too. He tried to defend himself by covering his head with his arms. They knocked him onto the ground and dragged him. The other girls and I tried to prevent them from hitting him more. We ran towards the soldiers but they beat all us with fists and wooden truncheons. They handcuffed him to the door of a closed store. Again we tried to make them stop by shouting, but they continued to beat him. The Israeli soldiers beat him severely with their fists, guns, feet and wooden truncheons. One of the truncheons broke on his body. While he was handcuffed, two foreign women tried to defend him but the soldiers continued to beat him. Then the soldiers untied him and put him into the jeep. The people in the street tried to interfere and an officer promised us they wouldn't beat him any more. But, as soon as he was in the jeep, the soldiers all began to beat him even worse. We tried again to stop them but they threatened us with tear gas and shot one.

My 7-year-old brother, Said, was beaten severely. One soldier held both his arms and another beat him very hard on the arms with his truncheon. The soldiers also beat him on the head with their truncheons. Neighbors took Said for treatment.

We went to the police station to try to see my older brother Mohammed. The soldiers there beat us and did not let us in. One of the Shin Bet interrogators came outside and hit us many times with a long metal rod, tapering into a large ball at the end. We rushed to the Red Cross and they advised us to go to the Bar Association.

NOTE : the photograph below is Eiman, her head scarf covered with her and her brother's blood. At one point she tried to protect her brother by embracing him and thus took many of the blows herself until she was knocked onto the ground by a soldier.

## **THE CHILDREN ON OMAR AL-MUKHTAR STREET**

The following is a list of schoolgirls who were beaten by soldiers on Omar Al-Mukhtar Street in Gaza on Saturday, January 30, 1988. The incident is described in affidavits provided for an international human rights organization. The list gives the name, age, weapon used for beating, part of the body injured and number of soldiers who attacked each girl.

- 1) Eiman Sail Al-Jamallah, 14, truncheons on head and hand, several soldiers.
- 2) Eiman Abu-Samra, 14, truncheons, kicking and punching with fists, back and abdomen, several soldiers.
- 3) Faisa Abu-Samra, 17, truncheons on back, abdomen and chest, several soldiers.
- 4) Fatma Al-Khawasma, 13, truncheons, gun butts and kicking on back, abdomen and chest, several soldiers.
- 5) Sousan Al-Saidi, 14, punched with fists on head and back, 2 soldiers.
- 6) Hannan Lafu, 15, truncheons on head and back, 2 soldiers.
- 7) Tagrid Al-Saidi, 15, truncheons on legs (beaten severely), 2 soldiers.
- 8) Mona Kassas, 13, truncheons on hand and back, 2 soldiers.
- 9) Naman Bedouin, 14, truncheons on back and chest, 5 soldiers.

## WAR AGAINST CIVILIANS

Report about a Visit to the Israeli-Occupied Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Jan 27 - Feb 2, 1988

**Jürgen Maier**  
**Green Party FRG, Federal Executive Committee**

By invitation of relatives of the deportees of the Palestinian uprising living in the FRG I visited the occupied Palestinian territories together with Jakob Moneta, former editor-in-chief of the German Metalworkers Union magazine, who lived in then-Palestine from 1933-47. We visited Ramallah, Nablus, Kalkilya, and Balata Refugee Camp in the West Bank, Gaza Town, Khan Yunis Town and Camp, Jabaliya Camp, and Beach Camp in the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem We talked to Palestinians of all parts of the population : people living in the refugee camps, physicians,lawyers, journalists, trade unionists, representatives of women's organisations, of the Red Crescent, *we visited hospitals and talked to the victims of the uprising. We visited houses demolished by the Israeli military, and tried to observe a military court trial, but were refused entry.* In Israel we had talks with representatives of the

opposition : MPs of the Progressive List for Peace and the Communist Party, the Alternative Information Center in West Jerusalem, which was closed by administrative decree for 6 months, the Jewish-Arab weekly Deretz Hanitzotz/Tariq al-Sahara, which is under threat of closure, representatives of the Vanunu Defense Committee and the organisation Yesh Gvul, which calls on reserve soldiers to refuse service in the Occupied Territories.

*What we saw in the Occupied Territories is so cruel, brutal, and inhuman that it went beyond all imagination.*

*Particularly shocking were visits to hospitals in the Gaza Strip. There were people who were beaten in a way that made me shiver. It is the declared policy of the responsible "Defense" minister Rabin to break bones by beating. In fact, this policy is implemented extensively. We saw victims with broken arms, legs, hands, ribs, even skulls, aged from 1 to 76. Particularly brutally treated victims were bedridden. There were elderly people who had been beaten and had broken bones and were only brought to the hospital days after they had been injured because of the curfew. There were cases where Palestinians were not only beaten until they were unconscious, sustaining injuries of broken bones but then their bodies were driven over by a military jeep, breaking their spine and causing paralysis. Others were "arrested" by binding them and then literally towing them away to the police station. Many patients had to wait days before they could be brought to hospital because of the curfew. Many injuries were the result of teargas. On the empty bottles is written: "WARNING: MAY START FIRE. MUST NOT BE FIRED DIRECTLY AT PERSONS AS DEATH OR INJURY MAY RESULT. FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY". They were made in the U.S.A. and were manufactured in January 1988. Many people told us that the army regularly fires the gas into houses... more than 70 abortions and stillbirths have resulted from this indoor use.*

*Tear gas is often used during curfews so that the Palestinian population cannot escape in to the open. In Kalkilya we were told that on three consecutive days the Israelis used gas during curfew. Consequences: several stillbirths and the death of a 2 month-old baby, who was refused medical treatment because of the curfew.*

*Another atrocity is the use of a particular kind of live ammunition causing extremely severe injuries. Many people, including physicians, reported, that this kind of ammunition is the internationally prohibited dum-dum ammunition. They have X-ray pictures of these injuries. The army uses "rubber" bullets — but these rubber bullets have a metal core. So-called "collective punishment" is extremely common, i.e. if a child throws a stone at soldiers in a refugee camp, they will attack the entire neighborhood: soldiers storming into every home, beating every inhabitant — women, men, the elderly, children and babies, everybody — and demolishing TV sets, furniture etc. Many victims with broken bones are the result of this "collective punishment". There are other forms of "collective punishment" such as an incident reported from Kalkilya: the male youths of the entire neighborhood were forced to kneel naked in the cold rain at night.*

*Another example was that in Jabaliya refugee camp in the Gaza strip where inhabitants saw tanks moving into the camp, demolishing houses and cars and damaging water lines so parts of the camp were flooded. Jabaliya is the place where the uprising started, but similar army behavior is reported from Khan Yunis refugee camp, we were often told by people that they had experienced British Egyptian Jordanian occupation, respectively but what the Israelis had done never happened before.*

All these atrocities are not single cases of excesses by individual soldiers. They are the declared "iron fist" policy of the government that is intended to break any Palestinian resistance. But from all interviews I got the impression that exactly the opposite effect was the result. It is deeply impressing to see the unity and determination of the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, and increasingly inside Israel, to end the occupation: "We have no choice".

Merchants in the Occupied Territories are on strike now for the 7th week, the shops remain closed despite many attempts by the army to force them open. Only food is sold at certain hours of the day. There is a comprehensive network of mutual aid and support, among the Palestinian people, eg with food. We were told in every interview that the uprising is not for a "better occupation" or a higher standard of living in the camps. It is for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people — Israeli withdrawal and a Palestinian state. All "autonomy" models basically avoid this central question because they accept the fact of occupation and deny the Palestinian people their self-determination. The PLO has a comprehensive underground infrastructure in the occupied Palestinian territories. All sectors of the population are part of this infrastructure. There is 95% support for the PLO, everybody feels represented only by the PLO and Arafat. The PLO determines the political direction of the uprising, nobody can agitate against the PLO guidelines, not even the Islamic Jihad. In all interviews we were told it is only the PLO that can and will represent the Palestinian people in an international peace conference which is the only solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The Palestinian people today want a political compromise with Israel and a state with East Jerusalem as capital, coexisting with Israel. The Israeli establishment is not ready to accept a true compromise. They are quite shocked and surprised by the intensity and duration of the uprising, but they refuse to accept the existence of the Palestinian people and to concede more than autonomy over garbage disposal to them. If the Israeli establishment keeps refusing to end the occupation, renounce their claim to the whole of Palestine, and renounce all colonisation plans and to go back to the 1967 borders, the present uprising may well be just the beginning of a tragedy.

February 4, 1988

# **UNION OF PALESTINIAN MEDICAL RELIEF COMMITTEES**

## **ACTIVITIES**

In the past week, volunteer Union medical teams examined 2886 patients in twenty-two locations in the west Bank and Gaza, Jan. 20-27, 1988. Teams set up mobile clinics in thirteen refugee camps, including Jabalyia, Bureij, Nuseirat, Rafah and Shate camps in Gaza all of which had previously been under military curfew for up to two weeks. Teams also worked in Deir Al Balah, Khan Yunis and many localities in Gaza town. As a result of further curfews and the army's continued campaign of beating, many refugee camps in the West Bank were revisited by medical teams. Four villages in the Rammalh district where residents had been seriously beaten by soldiers or wounded by army gunfire received medical teams for both mobile clinic and home visits : Silwad, Mazra al Sharqiye, Betiin and Ein Yabround.

In Silwad, for example, a medical team examined and took accounts from three men who were taken from their homes by soldiers on the night of January 24 and severely clubbed and mistreated until the next evening. The team transferred one of the victims to a private hospital in Jerusalem, after the medical examination revealed a possible ruptured spleen.



## **ONE DAY IN JALAZON REFUGEE CAMP**

Jalazon refugee camp, north of Ramallah, was under curfew for several days last week. A Union medical team visited the camp shortly after the curfew was lifted. Following are three accounts taken from Jalazon residents about what happened to them on January 26, the day the curfew was imposed :

**Im Amjad, 32 years old and a mother of 13 children** is the wife of an unskilled worker. Her oldest child is eighteen; her youngest 2 years old. On January 26, soldiers came into the camp, pursuing some children , presumably because they suspected them of throwing stones. They grabbed Im Amjad's eleven-year old son, who had wandered onto the scene. As they dragged him away, Im Amjad followed, screaming and trying to free her child. She finally managed to pull her son away, but as she hurried away, a soldier shot her from a distance of about three meters, wounding her in the right arm and right leg. She was bleeding, and pleaded with the soldiers to permit her leave the camp for Ramallah hospital.

After a full two hours, they allowed her to leave — provided she walk up the hill alone to the nearest taxi route. With great difficulty, Im Amjad finally received medical treatment at Ramallah hospital, but only for a scant 24 hours, as she feared the army might come and take her from the hospital. Committee members are following up on her required medical treatment and dressing her wounds.

**Muhanna, seven years old**, is in the second grade and has three other brothers. Around lunchtime on January 26, he was walking behind his uncle on their way to receiving their food rations from UNRWA. As he was passing, soldiers grabbed him and ordered him to remove stone barricades from the street. The stones were simply too big for the small child to lift. The soldiers angrily ordered him to go home; as he turned to walk back to his house, a soldier shot him in the neck with a rubber bullet. Muhanna is recuperating ; the bullet fortunately did not injure the nerves.

**Khaoula Khalil, 23 years old** saw soldiers beating a six-year old boy on January 26. She ran towards the boy and tried to rescue him. A soldier began beating her with the butt of his gun, but she freed herself and quickly headed home. Suddenly, she heard her neighbour Fatieh screaming : soldiers were beating Fatieh because she had rescued another boy. When Khaoula rushed to the scene to assist her neighbour, a soldier recognized her as the woman who had escaped. A soldier fired live ammunition : the bullet lodged in the ear penna, breaking it into three distinctive parts. Khaoula who was bleeding profusely, fainted and fell to the ground. Jalazon residents later rushed her to Ramallah hospital.

## **ONE CASE FROM THE GAZA STRIP**

**Yusef Amer**, is a fifteen-year old boy from Shate'camp. The son of a

worker, Yusef has been working for a year on an Israeli farm, in order to help support his 12 member family. On the 21st of January, when he was returning home from work, he was stopped in the street in Gaza and badly beaten by the army. The beating left him with an 8 cm wound on the head. He was then taken to a detention centre for five days where he received no medical treatment. When he was finally taken to prison, unwilling to bear responsibility for him because of the severity of his wounds, the prison authorities refused to accept him. He was taken back to the detention centre for another 24 hours and by the time he was eventually released, he had not received any medical attention.

When the Medical Relief Committee team examined him, they found the wound in his head was inflamed and full of pus, and since the wounded area had not been properly cleaned, his hair and scalp was covered with dried blood. The wound was thoroughly cleaned and dressed, and Yusef was put on a course of antibiotics to prevent further complications. He was also found to have extensive bruising on both shoulders, arms and legs.

**UPMRC  
Jerusalem**

# UNION OF PALESTINIAN MEDICAL RELIEF COMMITTEES EMERGENCY NEWSLETTER

## ACTIVITIES

*Union medical teams examined and treated 3122 patients in February 15-20, 1988. More than 14,000 patients have been treated over the past two months.* Additional doctors, nurses and other health professionals assisted in mobile clinic visits to meet the stepped-up schedule.

Emergency relief was especially directed towards areas where military curfews were imposed, including *Al-Amari and Jalazoun refugee camps near Ramallah, where residents endured 13 days of non-stop curfew*, Tulkarem refugee camp, and the West Bank town of Qalqilya, which was under curfew for fifteen solid days.

*The Union distributed 900 first aid kits, primarily in Gaza;* volunteers are currently packing and distributing 6000 new kits, in view of the increased need throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

The Union's blood typing and screening project is underway, with the target of *screening 30-40,000 people over the next three months.* In addition to issuing cards to these individuals, the screening team will keep a record of all those screened, in order to call upon donors as the need arises.

This blood typing and screening project arose as Union members witnessed hundreds of potential donors flocking to hospitals on days when injuries by army gunfire were reported, overcoming a long-seated belief in the society that giving blood is dangerous to the donor. The Union notes that the current level of popular mobilization in the Occupied Territories is constantly revising the conditions for health work and education and offers new challenges to which the Union pledges to respond.

## FOCUS ON GAZA

### **Union activities :**

The Union's Gaza Committee has been especially active these last two weeks. An intensive health education campaign has been conducted. During the past month, *22 mobile clinics were held* in various localities, including the Sheikh Radwan quarters of Gaza town, Khan Unis town and refugee camp, Jabalia town and refugee camp, Beit Hanoun village, al-Bureij camp, the Shija'iyya and Zaitoun quarters of Gaza town, and the town of Rafah.

### **Teargas and Abortion :**

In Gaza, leading obstetricians and gynecologists estimate that *40 cases of abortions might have had their origins in exposure to tear gas*. Although a definite link between exposure to tear gas and abortion needs further research, including developing a data base to compare with the normal rate of abortion among the population, clinical evidence suggests a relation. For example, *one gynecologist alone attended to seven cases of abortion of patients from Bureij and Jabalia refugee camp, all of were exposed to heavy doses of tear gas the same day*.

### **Army Harassment of Doctors :**

Reports from Gaza note that the army frequently blocks UNRWA doctors from reaching patients in need of care. In an incident in Khan Yunis during this period, soldiers threw milk powder that UNRWA was intending to distribute on the ground.

Although UNRWA clinics are often open seven days a week in response to the current situation, many in need of treatment cannot come to these clinics because of military curfews.

## **EYEWITNESS IN GAZA : THREE CASE HISTORIES**

The following accounts were taken by Union volunteers in Gaza in the last two weeks in February :

Forty year old **Yusef Hamadeh** was shopping at Nasr street in Gaza town when was stopped by an army patrol. After a short exchange, the soldiers began to beat him violently. The beating continued intermittently for almost three hours. Finally, Mr. Hamadeh was finally transferred to hospital unconscious and with very low blood pressure. He needed a transfusion of three units of blood and was found by physicians to have fractures in both legs and the right arm. In addition, his left arm was beaten badly, although not broken. On his head there were 12 cut wounds 3-5 cms in length.

**Mohammed Yosuf Abdul Rahman** is 33 years old, the father of seven children. He suffers from heart disease: mitral stenosis and aortic insufficiency. He underwent open heart surgery in 1985. On a day when tires were being burned near his house, the army came to the area, broke the door leading to his house and came in to search for young people. When they found none, they beat him up. His wife and mother began to scream explaining his condition, but the soldiers did not listen. They finally left him as he was beginning to turn bleu.

**Omar Jamal** is 24 year old epileptic. The army found him in the street and demanded that he pick up stones. He told them that he could not because of his condition. Soldiers began to beat him, and broke several bones. He was finally saved by an UNRWA doctor who saw what was happening and rushed to the scene to plead his cases on medical grounds.

# **THE UPRISING : HEALTH**

## **Health and the Palestinian Uprising**

**Excerpts from a Report of a trip to The Occupied Territories by Jean Marie Lambert  
Executive Director of the International Coordinating Committee of NGOS on the Question of Palestine, from May 26 to June 8, 1988**

### **INJURIES:**

The exact extent of injuries sustained during the uprising is not known for various reasons: a) people are reluctant to tell of their injuries because of fear of subsequent arrest; b) medical treatment is decentralized and record keeping incomplete; and c) frequent curfews mean it is often impossible to check on large sectors of the population, and also impossible for those who are injured to make their way to a medical institution for help. A group of American physicians visiting the Occupied Territories in February (Physicians for Human Rights : PHR) report that many people injured during clashes with the military fail to report their injury for a day or more, so that they can then explain it as one sustained in the normal course of daily activity rather than at the hands of soldiers. The PHR give what they call a "crude guess" of the number of injuries by making a conservative extrapolation from the number of cases they actually witnessed during their visit, arriving at well over 10,000 (as at the end of February). This is not to be regarded as a definitive statistic, but they stress that what matters is that the Occupied Territories are witnessing an "epidemic of violence".

Weapons deployed by the Israeli Defence Forces against the civilian population in the Occupied Territories have included the following :

- live ammunition, including high velocity bullets which have caused multiple shock wave injuries to internal organs, and explosive bullets which pepper into shrapnel on impact;
- CN and CS gas canisters (teargas — see below);
- rubber bullets, which have caused injuries including internal haemorrhages and eye damage;
- specially reinforced batons which are used to inflict severe beatings.

## **LIVE AMMUNITION :**

Deaths from shooting have soared since Defense Minister Rabin's announcement in mid-March that anyone seen to be throwing "suspicious objects" was a legitimate target. Settlers were also explicitly permitted to shoot to kill. In the second half of March the death rate from shooting was well over twice that of the first two weeks (31 as opposed to 12). On April 16, after the assassination of Abu Jihad, 13 people were killed by shooting, and 2 others who were shot on April 16 died the following day from their injuries. As of 18 April 1988, the total number of confirmed deaths from gunfire stood at 159 (from a total confirmed death toll of 227). A considerable proportion of injuries sustained from shooting have resulted in permanent disability: the PHR reports that about 30% of gunshot injuries over one day old which they saw in hospital had resulted in long-term or permanent loss of leg function.

## **TEARGAS :**

Type CS tear gas, which is in use, is lethal in high concentrations, especially in enclosed spaces, and warnings to this effect appear on the canisters. However, it continues to be used in exactly these conditions (for instance, the army crowded 23 people into one room of a house in Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza on March 16 and lobbed 5 tear gas canisters into it; the people were taken to hospital). The exact cause of tear-gas related deaths is uncertain, but it is possible that the deprivation of oxygen or the effect of the gas on blood circulation places a strain on sectors of the population at risk such as infants, pregnant women and their unborn babies, old people, and people with respiratory or heart conditions.

This seems to be borne out by the (incomplete) statistics : physicians estimate that in Gaza alone, at the end of February, there had been at least 80 fetal deaths. On the night of March 7-8 alone, 11 fetal deaths were reported among women in four Gaza refugee camps. The total confirmed deaths from tear-gassing (excluding fetal deaths) stood at 40 on April 18. Another 2 people died after being attacked with tear-gas canisters in addition to tear-gassing people, the army tear-gasses vegetable markets on a regular basis, and there have been many reports of tear gas attacks on clinics. The PHR reports that in at least 2 cases,

there were allegations that soldiers had fired tear gas into crowded health centres to “flush out the wounded” for arrest.

There are reports of a *new tear gas* in use since about March 3, when 300 schoolgirls were treated and one died in Gaza, after the intensive tear gassing of 3 schools. Residents are calling the new gas “mustard gas”. They report that it is yellow and smells different from other gases in use.

## **RUBBER BULLETS:**

A 16-year old from Bani Suheila lost an eye to a rubber bullet on April 4, bringing the total of eyes lost to rubber bullets at that time to around 20. PHR were told troops were firing rubber bullets at torso and head level, although the proper crowd control technique is to fire these bullets at the ground so they hit people on the ricochet. Even in the latter case, however, the use of rubber bullets carries the risk of facial and eye injuries.

## **BEATINGS:**

The PHR reports that the patterns of injury they witnessed suggested that the application of force was “indiscriminate in choice of victim and particular in consequence, suggesting an attempt to inflict maximum damage while minimizing the risk of death. “While this applies to all forms of injury, beating has been the most effective way of inflicting crippling damage which is only occasionally fatal. On January 19, Defense Minister Rabin made official the policy of beating people at random. “The first priority”, he said, “is to use force, might, beatings”. Within two days of this announcement, hospitals in Gaza reported almost 200 cases of broken bones being brought in for treatment. By January 27, more than 1000 serious injuries had been reported in Gaza alone. CBS News footage of 4 Israeli soldiers beating and then breaking the bones of 2 young Palestinians in Nablus in February 25 shocked television audiences worldwide. The Israeli authorities claim that such incidents are exceptional, but the facts prove the opposite. A survey was conducted in Fara’a refugee camp, on the West Bank, to collect data on injuries sustained from 12th December until 13th March. The result was: injuries from live ammunition: 23 (5 per 1000); injuries resulting from beatings: 38 (9 per 1000); total population of Fara’a: 4360. If this pattern had been repeated for the whole of the Occupied Territories during the same three months, then estimates of the total number on injuries would be: 7,500 injured by live ammunition; 13,500 injured through beating. This suggests that brutal and sometimes fatal beatings are part of officially endorsed army policy, and not individual aberrations. This was confirmed by an independent investigation by PHR in February, and has also been stressed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Amnesty International. As of April 16, the total number of confirmed fatal beatings stood at 8. An additional death been caused by a combination of beating and tear-gas.

## **DIFFICULTIES FACING MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS:**

Prior to recent events, existing emergency services and ordinary healthcare facilities in the territories were already inadequate for the



needs of Palestinians living under military occupation. It is astounding that health services have not collapsed under the sheer weight of casualties since December, and a credit to Palestinian doctors, nurses and general medical staff working in the West Bank and Gaza. As well as relatively poor facilities and lack of space, these have had to cope with harassment by the Israeli army in the following forms:

- Israeli security forces have frequently entered hospitals to arrest injured people from their beds. These patients have been forcibly transferred to Israeli military prisons where access to medical care has been denied them.

- The IDF has broken into major Palestinian hospitals including Ittihad, Shifa, Alia, Maqassad, and Ramallah hospitals. During these raids soldiers have beaten medical staff and patients and destroyed urgently needed medical supplies. In Shifa and Ittihad hospitals, soldiers ripped out intravenous drips from patients, endangering their lives.

- Palestinian ambulances have been denied access to locations where incidents are taking place or delayed en route to hospitals while transporting injured people. On at least one occasion an ambulance was seized by Israeli security forces and used as a cover to gain access to a Palestinian village.

- People have been brought to health care sites in private cars or simply carried. Cars have approach the sites by circuitous routes in order to avoid army roadblocks and other potential dangers of arrest. All this can mean delays of up to 4 hours, and the PHR heard during their short stay of 2 instances in which injured people had bled to death in such circumstances.

In addition to these difficulties, *doctors are denied access to chronically sick patients because of curfews. 24 hour curfews have been imposed on large areas of the West Bank and Gaza for periods of between 10 and 17 days, and during this time the camp clinics are closed.* Occasionally they remain open, but the camp populace is confined indoors and unable to visit them. This interrupts regular services, for instance prenatal care of pregnant women, and has brought UNRWA immunization programs in Gaza to a complete halt. After the curfews there is generally a great backlog of injuries to attend to: PHR report that immediately after the lifting of one curfew at Kalandia camp near Ramallah, 170 patients were seen in the first 4 hours.

Another difficulty is lack of water. At several camps in Gaza, *UNRWA field directors reported to the PHR that Israeli soldiers turned off or cut all of the camp's water pipes as "punishment". At one UNRWA maternity centre, babies had to be delivered without water to wash the babies, mothers, and sheets.*

*NB Given the present situation — the crackdown by the military and the police, and the consequent risks run by Palestinians — no place names or names of people will be given in this report.*

## **The Uprising on the Palestinian Side**

### **GENERAL IMPRESSIONS:**

The uprising is a movement of non-violent struggle against the Israeli occupation and not against Israel. The population has systematically organised itself in the villages and in each sector of the large towns, in order to confront the various problems posed by resistance and repression. It is fascinating to meet the popular committees and the so-called "neighbourhood" committees. You get the impression you are witnessing a "cabinet meeting!" :

"Here, it started 2 months into the intifada. A family whose son had been killed was visited and several neighbours helped them. And so we organised solidarity, elected a committee and shared out the jobs: distribution of food, agricultural advice, training people in how to give emergency aid to the injured, and the provision of education for all the young people up to school-leaving age. As we live near an Israeli settlement, we also organised a night guard to prepare ourselves in case of a "nocturnal raid". All this is on a voluntary basis. These structures are like a municipality, and if we organise ourselves like this everywhere, we have the basis of a future state".

Everybody obeys the orders given in the leaflets of the "Unified Command of the Intifada" :

Three times in the same day I went through the town of Ramallah to find it looking a ghost town. In East Jerusalem it is amazing to see the shutters all fall in the shops exactly midday. I was told how the shopkeepers had organised themselves when Israeli soldiers came to break the padlocks and force the striking shops open: "We formed teams of welders who came round after the soldiers to reweld the padlocks. Even when some shops stayed open, there was never any theft".

The immediate demands of the struggle are clear and have been itemised as 14 points including :

- Release of all prisoners;
- The withdrawal of troops from all populated zones including refugee camps;
- An end to the establishment of settlements and land confiscation;
- The ending of tax imposition in the territories.

Future plans and political negotiations are in the hands of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. There is no power conflict over this point and the division of tasks is clear. If a command structure is necessary in order to organise the population, this does not represent "substitution" or put into question the representatives outside the territories.

The resolve of all strata of the population is firm and their mobilisation total. Nothing will ever be like it was before. The Palestinian people of the Occupied Territories have taken their future in hand in coordination with the Palestinians outside and they are ready to pay the price of their uprising.

In relation to this, it is startling to hear accounts everywhere of the ways in which lives have been changed by the Intifada: "Since the occupation, we had lost the sense of community, of sharing. The consumer society introduced by the occupier had destroyed our relations with each other. We have rediscovered the traditional way of life. We visit each other, exchange favours..." and even: "with the intifada, the women have once again taken up an important position in society. We have taken on responsibilities, organised ourselves. We are not prepared to return to things as they were before. We are struggling against the occupation at the same time as we struggle against a certain male domination..."

## **THE PRICE PAID BY THE PALESTINIANS**

The price paid by the Palestinians is very high. The initial classic reaction of the Israeli authorities to the demonstrations which they thought would be "brief" has become more and more brutal and blind. As the government gradually realised that this was a prolonged revolt, it became entrenched in its policy of repression and using the only language "which the Arabs can understand", that of violence. This was manifested in all possible forms and it is true to say that no family has been spared the intensified repression arising since the beginning of the Intifada.

### **Mass arrests:**

Which have gradually transformed Israel and the Occupied Territories into a big internment camp. More than 7500 arrests in addition to the 4500 Palestinians already in prison before December 9. If you add the 1500 administrative detainees, that represents more than 13,000 people in prison, in other words 1% of the population. But the Israeli authorities do not seem to be content with that. The camp at Megiddo (which was created during the war in Lebanon and had 6000 places) is under reconstruction and will now have room for 8000 prisoners. Ansar 3, in the Negev, will be reserved for the administrative detainees and children (*the "Bambi" camp in Gaza where children from 9-13 were imprisoned having been closed*).

### **Curfews:**

These complete the impression of concentration camp. The refugee camps, villages, town districts, are often put under curfew for periods of 3, 5, 10, 20 and even 45 days. This means that no-one can go home, no-one can go out, except during 2 hours in 24, in order to get food. Water, electricity, and telephone lines are cut. Problems of young children and the sick soon become critical. The "record" was on April 16: 750,000 people were under curfew!

### **Shooting with live ammunition:**

As of 31 May, there had been 9500 injuries and 182 deaths as a result of bullets (in addition to 87 deaths from other causes: beatings, gas, hemorrhages, bodies found after people had gone missing...). *Rubber bullets which were used at the beginning seem to have been replaced by*

*steel bullets covered with a fine coat of plastic. (I saw some in Nablus which weighed 80 grammes) or by aluminium bullets. Percussion bombs (or "sound-bombs") have been used at very close range resulting in body burns.*

I met several victims of rubber bullets. One young man of 18 had a fractured jaw after having had three bullets fired at him at a range of one metre fifty. This case is the perfect example of gratuitous violence since this young man was coming towards his village on a tractor when an army jeep stopped him. The soldiers in the jeep beat him and then one of them put him against a tree and shot 3 bullets at his cheek and jaw. Left there, without assistance, he was rescued by witnesses of the scene who took him to hospital. His brother, 16 years old, had been killed three days earlier during a demonstration in the village.

### **Gas:**

This has indeed been used as a punitive measure inside houses, resulting in deaths, paralysis, and abortions:

Here are 2 instances among many whose authenticity I can guarantee. I visited a man of 50, paralysed on his bed. He was suffering from hypertension. During a demonstration, soldiers came into his home, pushed over the furniture, scattered the clothes, and then left after having thrown a tear gas canister. Elsewhere, the army knocked at someone's door. Somebody came to open. The soldier ordered them to scrub the slogans on the walls of her home. They refused and closed the door. One of the soldiers then threw a tear gas canister through the open window at them. It hit their feet and for the next 2 days they were in a semi-comatose state with vomiting.

### **House demolition:**

These are regularly carried out against families when one of their members has been arrested. Quite often the offence is not specified. Collective punishment sometimes goes a long way, because it is the landlord who pays for the alleged offence of a member of his lodger's family !:

I visited Beita where 16 houses were destroyed after the death of a young Israeli in unclear circumstances. Not only had one house been destroyed "by mistake", but the neighbouring houses had also been shaken by the explosion. Several families live in tents near the ruins of their home. It should be mentioned that a committee of Israelis has been established to help the families of Beita rebuild their homes.

### **Communication:**

International lines have been cut, the "pro-Palestinian" Israeli press and the Palestinian press have been severely hit (journalists in prison : 6, in administrative detention : 20, arrested and released after a few days or weeks : 11. Newspapers closed : 5, newspapers banned for periods between 2 and 3 weeks : 4. These figures are those of May 29. The foreign press has often been obstructed or even seriously maltreated by the army).

To this must be added restriction on outside travel which is often unexpected, and which adds to the isolation the authorities are attempting to impose.

### **Economic sanctions :**

Such as the closure of shops, the destruction of harvests, the restrictions on money brought in from Jordan, the delay imposed on money transfers which means salaries can't be paid, administrative go-slows on the Jordanian border for exported produce (tomatoes, oranges, water-melon... which rot there), and the block on produce from the Occupied Territories coming to East Jerusalem which deprives Palestinian farmers of a market...

To all this must be added deportations (8 people have been deported, 12 are awaiting deportation and many are threatened), and the closure of universities, secondary and primary schools (which creates enormous problems for all the young people who are not able to take exams at the end of the academic year, not to allow for further study).

## **DESPITE THE REPRESSION, LIFE CONTINUES AND PEOPLE ORGANISE**

I saw this for myself, in the field of health, for instance. The Palestinian Union of Medical Aid and other groups such as the Union of Health Committees, have quickly organised reception structures in the villages, and assured the training of the population (to give immediate care to those injured by bullets or those who have inhaled gas, or been burnt), distribution of emergency health care materials... Despite the situation of permanent emergency, and at the same time thanks to this, Palestinian doctors have organised themselves for the long term. For instance, the blood bank in the West Bank, set up with the participation of the entire population. Bit by bit everybody is learning their blood group and this has already enabled the health services and hospitals to appeal for specific donors when the need arises. (Which has put an end to the crush in front of hospitals during demonstrations). With all this data being computerised, the Palestinian health organisations are currently preparing for the next 20 years. One doctor said to me "The Israelis themselves have told us that if we were that organised in every sphere we could soon create our own State!".

My contacts with the four Palestinian women's unions brought to light new developments in three fundamental problem areas which women have to face: the family, the status of women, and the national problem. A whole range of activities — training, research and practical action — has been undertaken to ensure that education continues (despite the closure of schools and kindergartens) and to confront the tensions created by the intifada in the minds of children (i.e. the influence on their games, their dreams, family relations), in order to ensure the continuity of family life in this context of strikes, unemployment, lack of food, temporary arrests and prolonged detention.

**Excerpt from a Report by Don Betz Chairman,  
International Coordinating Committee  
6-12 march 1988**

**AL-MAKASSED**

Al-Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem houses victims of Israeli military occupation policies. It is a 200-bed private, full service institution with specializations, making it the largest in the Occupied Territories. It is an Islamic Charitable Hospital which means that 70% of the patients do not pay.

We were well received and informed by several members of the staff including British-trained Dr. Rustom Nammari, Hospital Director and Orthopedic Surgeon.

Al Makassed is reserved for severe cases requiring specialized attention and extended care. The facility has received as many as 53 injured in a single day since the beginning of the uprising. Nammari started by mentioning that the hospital has treated over 150 cases of severe bullet injuries impacting from the head to the legs. These are live ammunition wounds inflicted by high-velocity (2 km per sec) NATO rounds that shatter bones on impact and make treatment and recuperation difficult. The rounds are fired at close range, not the range for which they were designed, inflicting "colossal damage". Patients are seriously injured by the holes made by the rounds and by the bacteria that breeds in such massive wounds.

By early March the staff of this one hospital had treated 500-550 victims of beatings, including fractures of virtually every bone as well as severe head wounds.

Rubber bullets also cause extensive injuries. Originally designed as a crowd-control device, they are weighted plugs of hard rubber with metal inside. (A new, smaller but heavier, rubber projectile has been introduced since mid-March). When fired at close range and at the head the injuries are very serious. At best they leave a large bruise, like a beating. We saw two men whose jaws were shattered by the rubber bullets fired at close range. Dr. Nammari said that they have treated 8 persons who have lost eyes due to these "crowd control" measures. Due to the existing web of laws, the medical authorities *must* report all cases hit by bullets. But this regulation does not apply to the victims of beatings. Many avoid going to receive institutional medical treatment for beatings for fear the report will lead them to prison. Often the police follow the released patients home for interrogation.

Therefore, many treated at home. Several of the grass-roots societies prepare first-aid kits and train women and girls on the applications of first-aid techniques. Dr. Nammari speculated that the hospital do not see one-half of the injured.

The doctors spoke of the gasses being used in the West Bank and Gasa. They have change with some affecting the central nervous system. They have observed long-term symptoms of nervousness, chest infections and

severe headaches. Others speak of hemorrhaging, massive skin irritation and spontaneous abortion.

The life-threatening nature of this gassing policy is starkly evident in the reports of casualties generated during the *intifadeh* (uprising). According to the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights, 53 persons had perished due to gassing over the last five months through June 15, 1988. The victims range in age from one week to 90 years and include two pregnant women. They are not included in the oft-quoted Israeli military "body count" consistently used by the Western media.

Beatings have been unprecedented in their ferocity. Some have been pummeled so severely and mercilessly that internal bleeding is common as is bleeding into the brain. The medical personnel have chronicled extensive muscle and bone damage, and now face a very serious rehabilitation problem among the young. "Some of the limbs of these young people will NEVER work properly", one doctor commented.

The difficulties in caring for these victims are compounded by the occupying authorities. Many times the injured are not allowed to be picked up by the hospital's ambulances until "quiet" has been restored in an area. Time may be crucial in saving these lives. "I know that we could have saved some lives, but it took more than two hours to get some of these patients to the hospital", Dr. Nammari confided.

Dr. Nammari was particularly concerned with the paralyzed and those who need rehabilitation. He introduced us to 25 long-term patients in Makassad at the time. Six were paralyzed, either from the neck down or the waist down. Most were under 18. He testified knowing at least 30 cases of paralysis in the West Bank and Gaza since the onset of the *intifadeh*. He also displayed difficult cases of multiple-femur fractures that do not heal easily. There is no rehabilitation center, staff, equipment or facilities. The expertise to meet such a crisis is not available. It was clear that there will be a continuing demand and escalating need for such a facility and the people to run it and to train local staff in the proper rehabilitative procedures.

No patient feels safe from the grip of the occupying army, even in the hospital. Soldiers were stationed right outside the entrance. They have entered the building and taken patients on several occasions. Often they are taken as they are leaving the hospital. This tactic was corroborated by medical personnel met throughout the Occupied Territories.

At Ramallah hospital soldiers attacked the students on numerous occasions firing rubber bullets into the entrance and tear gas all around the building. The attack was justified by the students palcing of the Palestinian flag on the roof of the hospital. *Flying the flag, displaying the colors of the flag in any way, or giving the "V" for victory sign with your fingers are all considered terrorist acts and cause for harassment, beating, arrest and administrative detention.*

Many individual cases of serious injury could be chronicled here. A few examples include a 23 year old man from Khan Younis in Gaza who lost his leg below the knee. Another man, age 20, had his leg shattered by a high velocity bullet. It can only be repaired by using an external metal skeleton literally holding the remains of his leg together with clamps.

He was hit by a bullet as he entered Haza City's Shifa Hospital. On that day one was killed and 15 injured INSIDE that hospital. A third case was a 29 year old man with a bullet in the neck which has rendered him totally paralyzed from the neck down due to a severely damaged spinal cord. Next to him was a 24 year old double amputee. Perhaps the most difficult case to confront was FIRAS, a 12 year old fifth grader who is paralyzed and will never walk again. Ghassan is a 15 year old paralyzed from the waist down. We were told he was shot in the back as he ran from the Israeli soldiers. Both his spleen and one kidney had to be removed. His wish, he related in Arabic from his wheelchair, was to be healthy and to be free. Two 16 year old boys were shot, one through the center of both hands, the other through the center of his "writing and throwing" hand. These are some of the results of the humane crowd control measures utilized "with utmost restraint" by the occupation authorities. A phrase used by the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations in March 1988.

As we dragged ourselves out of the facility, the doctors drew my attention to the words of former United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger quoted in the *Jerusalem Post* the previous day. He counselled the Israeli authorities to crush the insurrection "overwhelmingly, brutally, and rapidly". I could offer my Palestinian inquisitors no credible insight into the motivation for such counsel. I could only think of FIRAS and his future.

## **RAMALLAH**

We visited Ramallah and spoke with many people including JAMAL NASSAR and ROGER HEACOCK, professors at Bir Zeit University. I know Jamal from United Nations simulations in the United States. He was a professor at Illinois State University, who went to Bir Zeit in August 1987 on a Senior Fulbright Fellowship. He taught three days before it was closed. In 1987 Bir Zeit was closed 4 months, and remains closed at this is being written.

Jamal says the uprising has been going on for 20 years, but since December 1987 the revolt has crossed all sectors of society and all strata are involved.

There are countless examples of solidarity, of the "Iron Will" resisting the "Iron Fist". One is the story of a man being beaten in the street by an Israeli patrol. A woman arrived carrying an infant and waded into the center of the confrontation. She chastised the victim for being such a poor excuse for a husband and a father, and exclaimed that she wanted to have little to do with him. With that scolding she dropped the baby into his arms and stormed off around the corner. The beating ceased and the man staggered away clutching the child. Nearby was the woman waiting to retrieve her infant. She was not his wife; he was not the husband or father. He was a man at risk.

Jamal talked of the strike inside the Green Line (pre-1967 Israel) and the relief the Arabs inside Israel have dispatched to refugee camps under siege. "The Green Line is NOT a barrier for Palestinians". They are countering Israeli attempts to geographically divide the Palestinians.



The unity of all Palestinians scared Israelis. Israelis, to be really peaceful and free, must become Middle Eastern. Neither man saw an end to the uprising. "Palestinians are just emerging from a traditional society and can survive with little". They visualize a protracted struggle assuming many forms and shapes as the circumstances dictate.

They fully expect Israel to try and maintain an apartheid state.

"All the work done on behalf of the Palestinians for the past 20 years was exceeded by what has happened in the Occupied Territories of Palestine in the past three months", Jamal concluded.

It was with these men and other residents of Ramallah that we observed one of the confrontations between the "children of the stones" and the IDF. At 11 AM the students placed the Palestinian flag at the top of Ramallah hospital. Displaying the green, black, red and white banner is but one of an endless list of "terrorist acts" designated by the occupation authorities. The IDF engaged the 13-18 year old, kuffiya-wrapped students in the rock-strewn streets adjacent to the hospital. Rocks and then rubber bullets; rocks and then tear gas; rocks and then live ammunition, followed each other in an escalating and deadly rhythm.

The IDF eventually withdrew from that confrontation, just one of several incidents occurring in the city. The frustration was evident on the faces of these boy-soldiers. As they passed us they grabbed a Palestinian student standing nearby who was in no way involved in the confrontation. People with us began to shout at them to leave her alone. We were urged to stay close to them and to have our cameras ready. Adverse publicity might save her a beating or worse.

She was pulled and shoved by these teenage Israeli soldiers for a few minutes as they lumbered up the debris-filled street. Eventually they pulled her face back by her hair and sprayed her twice in the eyes with a mace-like substance. She screamed and fell down. As the soldiers proceeded down an alley, residents in a nearby house took this university woman in to wash and rest.

The patrol proceeded down a narrow lane between rows of substandard houses and apartments. When they had passed, a woman came down from one apartment and asked if we were journalists. After we identified ourselves, she told us the day before the IDF fired tear gas into her baby's room for no apparent reason. She was holding a year-old child whose facial complexion was severely irritated. The canister she produced was one of four we would see so many times during our days there. It was the MK 11 560 CS gas can clearly labelled not be utilized indoors as DEATH or serious injury may result. The lettering also proclaimed that it was made in the USA, complete with company and zip code. For the Palestinians we encountered it symbolized the role of the US as co-oppressor in the Occupied Territories.

At that time I was reminded of an open letter to Israeli Prime Minister Yishak Shamir in the *New York Times Review of Books* from American Jewish intellectuals from across the political spectrum "It (the policy of holding the West Bank and Gaza) makes peace negotiations impossible. It casts the Jews in Israel, and those who are about them all over the

world, in the impossible position that the Jewish state can live only by forever repressing the Palestinians". the letter concluded. The repression is a daily of life for these people.

## NABLUS

We followed the twisting road to Nablus ant the north of the West Bank negotiating the steep hills and passes that wind between them. There were villages all along our route where the *intifadeh* continues far out of the reach of the Western media.

Nablus is the largest of the towns on the West Bank. It is set dramatically against the sheer face of the surrounding hills with the main commercial area at its base. The entire area was uncusomarily quiet. The shops were closed. Few people were on the street. Our guide, a well known physician from the area, took us high on one of the hills to a neighborhood where a few children played in the street. They found us objects of curiosity, and began to offer personal testimony on the effects of the occupation once they learned that we were from the West and we were friendly.

The horror stories of the occupation were plentiful. "A fourteen year old boy was killed in front of this house last week", the occupants stated. They recounted multiple instances where the IDF burst into houses and proceeded to break arms of those who could throw stones. "With which hand do you write?", inquired one soldier before he and his associates broke both. A man recounted the humiliation of being beaten in front of his wife and children in their home. The acrimony stretched to stories of Israeli soldiers urinating in the rooftop water reservoirs as an demonstrative example of the state of the occupation.

We then proceeded to the center of the old city of Nablus.

Characteristically, the road narrowed to passages not wide enough for a small car. We were the only persons on the street, save an eight-man IDF patrol that noted our entry and surrounded the car in the alleyway. They bumped the side of the vintage VW beetle with their M-16 rifle butts demanding we all exit immediately. They wanted to see all our passports and our driver's identity papers. The self-declared leader of this military contingent began screaming in Arabic how he was crazy and that we should not say a word or he would kil all of us. He demanded that we remove a 4x6 inch color sticker of the Palestinian flag that had been affixed to the swinging sign above a shuttered shop. When we did not immediately comply he took the drivers identity card and told him he would not see it again. It was retrieved later.

We were extricated from this tense situation by the very women we had come to meet. Several of them arrived and began to speak quickly to the soldiers, all the while slowly moving us away from the car and toward the meeting house. We walked for fifty yards up a passageway to the entrance of a small home. One Israeli soldier affixed a tear gas canister to his weapon and levelled it at the entrance. When we shouted at him not to fire, he looked up and just laughed as he walked away. Throughout our meeting in this house the soldiers walked under the windows periodically striking their rifle butts on the outside walls. The

tension of realizing that they could burst in at any time or fire tear gas into this private home was palpable for all of us.

But the spirit in the room starkly contrasted with the ugly scene on the street. The room was overflowing with women, about 30 of them, ranging in age from 13 to almost 80. By their dress they represented the full spectrum of the society, from Islamic sisters to those dressed very modern and western, Muslims and Christians. Each was anxious to offer their perspective of life in Nablus and the important transformation taking place for women at this seminal historic moment.

Women are empowering themselves under these emergency conditions. They find themselves in the abnormal position of protecting men who are always subject to IDF arrest. They have been able to retrieve the sick and injured and, occasionally, to leave an area during the curfew and search for food and supplies. They are all involved in learning first aid. As each one has learned the basics, she is charged with passing the techniques on to others. Other organizations are preparing first aid kits to be distributed throughout the region. The women undertake visitation to prisoners' families. Many prisoners are being held outside in tents or unheated buildings, so the women had already made over 200 wool shirts for them and would be making more.

*There are constant threats to women from insults to assaults. Yet their spirit was indomitable. They were fully prepared to meet the challenge to protect their children and to gather the food. They were attacked with tear gas during the silent demonstrations on International Women's Day on March 10, 1988. At least one woman was severely injured; another was unconscious for 2 days.*

*They do not feel safe and secure ANYWHERE, not in their homes, not with friends, not in the mosque or church. Houses are broken into at will and without reason or provocation. It is part of the reality of occupation. There were several memorable personal testimonies. One involved the 68 year old woman who sat next to me. She spoke rapidly of being beaten for not opening the door. She told the IDF that there were no men in the house. They entered through the house next door and through her ceiling to get to her. She was cursed and beaten. When she tried to respond to their false allegations of shielding men in the house, they yelled, "Uscut!" "Shut up!" Other soldiers threw stones through her windows. "To whom do you complain?", she queried. "If the enemy is your judge, to whom do you turn?" Another incident involved a woman's son who was hit by an IDF jeep, then he was beaten and left in the street. The women talked of the many persons they minister to secretly so that the injured will not enter the hospital where many have been seized by the IDF.*

These women were animated and spoke excitedly of their determination to continue this protest and demonstrations as coordinated by the Unified National Command. They agreed that the proposed UN-sponsored international peace conference is the way out of this intolerable situation. They would not accept a return to life before the *intifadah*.

We paid a call on *Bassam Shaka*, the former mayor of Nablus who lost both legs one morning when he started his car in 1977 and a planted bomb exploded. He has become a symbol of resistance to the 20 year old occupation for many in Palestine.

Bassam Shaka conceptualized the *intifadeh* as an "explosion releasing the energy, pain and suffering of the occupation". The West Bank and Gaza were Arab areas and were not going to change because of the oppression. He found the determination of the population to be inspiring. He claimed no responsibility for leadership, but praised those who had assumed direction.

## DETENTIONS

Since the uprising there have been administrative detainees in Galilee for the first time. Twenty well-known activists from the nationalist Sons of the Village were so treated. Nazareth itself had been under military law until 1965. This emergency power inside Israel proper gives the detaining authority to military commanders in the North, Central and Southern Commands. Under these regulations, there is no requirement to prove guilt. It is a harsh tool to curb activism. We heard stories of those taken to the police stations being beaten.

The sentences for activism are harsh. Some ninth graders received 2 year sentences for disobedience. Slogans, posters, Palestinian flags are all considered terrorist symbols. The uprising's Unified National Command have urged these children and adults not to pay the stiff fines, but to go to prison. The Israeli attempts to create loci of support for their administration of the Occupied Territories through the Village Leagues program failed. "The leagues are finished", our host concluded.

American relief worker *Karen White* spoke about her investigation, *The Children of the Stones*. She documents mistreatment of Palestinian children in the Occupied Territories by the occupying forces and settlers. She spoke at length of bone and muscle damage from beatings which will affect the future growth of the victims. *Her studies reveal that sixty per cent of the injuries sustained by the children are never seen in the hospitals*. Many children hide from the visits of the Red Cross and some with broken bones do not want to be seen for fear of reprisals from the military occupiers. We found her comments corroborated by other interviews and by medical personnel.

There is great fear of the curfews by the residents of the West Bank and Gaza. During these periods there is little opportunity to receive medical aid and food. Under curfew the people are "invisible" with no media presence to protect from the house-to-house ransackings and beatings. Without the media, these people become faceless one again. Witnessess spoke of mail to US Congressmen being intercepted. Some now send it out via diplomatic pouches of sympathetic countries.

## TIBERIUS

Our search for our contacts took us from Nazareth to the Scotch Hospice, a lovely retreat location in the town of Tiberius on the Sea of

Galilee, about 45 minutes from Nazareth. By good fortune, we were able to meet with two Episcopal priests, Fr. S. Shehadeh and Fr. O. Rentisi, both residents of the West Bank.

Fr. Rentisi commented that the uprising was "like a fever that has touched everybody". The spirit of cooperation is evident in the way people treat each other. They have discovered a new sense of themselves as they cooperate in innovative ways. "Before they fought for food in the camps. Now they share what they have", Rentisi explained.

Fr. Rentisi judged the Shultz Plan as fatally flawed. The US is seen as allied with one of the parties. The US does not acknowledge the rights OR the representatives of the Palestinian people, does not recognize the PLO, and wants to cooperate with Israel to create another representative for Palestine in the Occupied Territories. "They will not find such a representative from now until eternity", Fr. Rentisi declared.

Israel must also be saved from this demoralizing situation. The future of the Palestinians and the Israelis are interdependent. The peace of Israel depends on the peace of Palestine. They called for a two state solution. "There is a need for realistic, honest people at this critical point in our common history".

They are hopeful for real peace and what could follow from open borders including trade, exchange, etc. They both commented that aid from Galilee has been funneled through UNRWA, but aid to the towns is more difficult. These goods sent by truck were stopped by the IDF in Gaza.

"People are determined to keep on. If we give up now Israel will crush us. We do not want to be occupied any longer !! This is not a rebellion. Rather the people are seeking their own entity, identity, integrity, state, passport and flag on their own soil. The people will NEVER go back ! The people of the Occupied Territories want their own state established by their own leadership, the PLO. *"When we tell you who our leadership is, it is NOT for you or anyone on the face of the earth to tell us who should lead us. And don't be deluded into accepting the Israeli argument that this is an Islamic revolution... I am a Christian and go to the mosque on Friday; Muslims come to church with us on Sunday"*, Rentisi explained. The bonding is transcending confessional barriers in occupied Palestine.

The National Committee for the Protection of Arab Land in Israel called for a national strike on 30 March. This is continual reaction to the loss of Arab land at the hands of the Israeli authorities inside the Green Line and in the Occupied Territories. Israeli development plans for areas with large Arab populations are undertaken without any consideration for the Arab people living there. The West Bank and Gaza comprise less than 20% of old Palestine.

## **YMCA-EAST JERUSALEM**

Many Palestinians decided long ago that the preservation of the dignity of their families and their people was possible even under the burden of occupation. Their spirit and their achievements have served

as role models for others. Many can be mentioned. One certainly is Um Khalil.

Her story is a microcosm of the saga of the Palestinian people. As a young wife and mother she and her family were dispossessed in 1948 and ended up in Gaza. With her last piece of jewelry she and her husband rented a small truck to return to their home and pick up some belongings and articles for her children. They were turned back, and not allowed to go to their home. From that moment her life, her concerns, her orientation changed. She has been jailed 8 times. She has organized effective women's societies, including the current *Inash al Usra in El Bireh* after watching her people stand in UNRWA lines for bread. She wanted to help Palestinian people help themselves and, thereby, retain a sense of their identity and integrity. Her cottage industry emphasizing traditional embroidery for export represents economic independence for thousands of rural West Bank families. The society also runs a kindergarten, a residence for orphan girls, a bakery and a small clothing manufacturing business. She successfully channelled her defiance of the occupation and her concern for her people into a series of enterprises where Palestinian people exercise some control over their own lives.

Such independence and self determination cannot be tolerated by the occupying authorities. On 18 June 1988 IDF forces raided the *Inash al Usra Centre* and closed it for "an indefinite period" on the grounds of instructing youth to demonstrate. The closure will adversely effect 4200 women directly and over 20,000 other people in their families. By this action the military authorities on the West Bank are attempting to undermine a successful self-help enterprise conceived by Palestinian women for the welfare of the entire population.

"The USA and Israel must be reconciled to the fact it is not possible to still human beings striving for freedom by burning, stealing and killing", counselled one physician.

We were told that the car of a women's work committee in Ramallah was fire bombed that day and 11 more persons placed in administrative detention. "The occupation is killing the love in the hearts of our children", a leading female administrator warned. Shamir and company were described by two priests there as "ex-gang fighters and bone breakers, die-hard pioneers of Zionism with no conception of the future".

## GAZA

We went to Gaza the next day. Gaza is 30 miles long and 10 miles wide with almost 700,000 inhabitants living in four towns and 8 camps. About 2500 Israelis settlers also live there. The contrasts in living standards between West Bank and Gaza are stark. The road from Jerusalem that cuts southwest toward Ashkelon and onto Gaza is used principally by Arabs going to and from Gaza. It is in a decrepit state of disrepair. The Norwegian ambassador to Israel has said of Gaza "This is worse than what the Germans did in Norway during the war".

The stories of abuse and oppression abounded. We saw evidence of rubber bullets and live ammunition being fired into many houses. Every

family we visited produced more than one tear gas canister made in the USA that had been fired INTO their homes. In meeting after meeting in the houses of Gaza City and Jabaliya camp, the residents recited tales of life under occupation. "Settlers stopped the other day and shot a girl playing in a schoolyard", one middle-aged man commented. "The settler was interrogated and released. Yet so many of us, including children, are sentenced to prison for throwing rocks! We will not stop our resistance to this unjust and humiliating occupation until it ends".

The conditions in Gaza make the West Bank look like a developed country. The measures that have been used to subdue the *intifadeh* in Gaza there have been extreme. Full curfews have been proclaimed. For days Gazans were not supposed to leave their houses. Water has been cut not Jabaliya and Nusseirat camps more than one. On the evening of 9 March, the American-born Rabbi Meir Kahane and Gaza settlers attacked one of the camps. The articulated aim of his Kach movement is to "drive the Arabs into the Jordan desert".

As we walked the dirt back streets of the city escorted by recognized leaders of the resistance, ever-expanding groups of children tracked us at a minimal distance. People came out of their shanties and makeshift dwellings to eye these Westerners. Along the dusty, deserted main streets were countless strands of steel wire, coiled remnants of torched steel-belted tires that had served for a time as makeshift roadblocks and a flaming, noxious manifestation of popular defiance of the superior MILITARY power under which they live.

At Shifa hospital Gaza City, we witnessed the consequences of the occupation's brutality. I hesitate to label Shifa as a hospital. There were no sanitation standards. The toilets were filthy with debris scattered everywhere. What food I did see was repulsive. Shifa is administered by the military occupation authorities and Gazans pay taxes to support it. More than once we were reminded that Gazans are taxed 20 percent of their incomes and 15% VAT on goods they buy in order to support the military government that provides just such services as Shifa. Many injured persons refuse to be taken to Shifa. Most spoke of family members or friends being arrested from their beds while convalescing in the squalid hospitals of Gaza. This was not the well-scrubbed Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem, only a short distance away.

Three days before our arrival, Israeli soldiers entered Shifa and arrested persons from their beds. The doctors and nurses openly protested the action, but now would not speak with us. "they have been warned", commented a man from Gaza that now accompanied us.

We were reminded several times that the people avoid admittance to the hospital. Many simply forego medical care for their injuries.

What was sickening is not only the number of injuries, but the type of punishment that these victims have sustained. They reflect a sadistic philosophy of crowd control. Two fourteen year old boys had broken arms, multiple breaks. Their limbs have been so badly pummeled and pulverized they may not be able to use them again. Elbows and wrists had been repeatedly smashed with rifle butts and truncheons. Ankles and knees had also been prime targets. The bone and muscle damage to

the boys we saw was extreme. There were three men who had been so severely beaten that their arms and legs were at least three times normal size a full three days after they sustained the onslaught. One man kept his head covered. I asked him if he was afraid we would take his picture. No, he responded, it was that a soldier had poked his scalp repeatedly with a long needle and the cloth was soothing his wounds. Two days earlier I heard a report from a Western relief worker on the West Bank who had evidence that a soldier used a long needle repeatedly to prick the chest of two children. Patients told us that their families are often beaten just outside the hospital but also inside when they visit.

Jabaliya Camp is one square kilometer of dust and corrugated shanties that is the "temporary" home to 60,000 Palestinians. It has an open sewer winding through it. What looked like a pond was a cesspool. Children are everywhere. In the center is a barb-wired Israeli military compound complete with watchtower. This sprawling warren of hovels called a camp has been partially bulldozed by the Israeli army under the recommendation of General Ariel Sharon in order to allow easier access to the camps center for military vehicles. This is the same Sharon who has moved, under IDF guard, into the Muslim quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. Many of the spaces between these tin, wood and plastic shelters that open onto the road have been sealed by mammoth concrete slabs and mounds of earth piled against them in order to cut off avenues of exit and to prevent these spaces being used as hiding places for the rock-throwing children. These slabs were pushed into place by the omnipresent BULLDOZER, the destructive symbol of the Israeli military occupation of this region and its people.

Of the people we met during our stay, none was more memorable than 101 year old Ibrahim Awad. We met him lying on a mat in the courtyard of his small, modest dwelling. He and his family told us of their confrontation with the occupying military authorities. Apparently the Israeli military (IDF) was chasing a tire-burning demonstrator and thought he might have climbed over the wall into the Awad's yard. When Awad's 65 year old wife would not open the door, it was kicked in. Everyone in the family was beaten. the doors to all the rooms were kicked in.

(We saw the recent reframing of all the door facings). This centenarian was struck repeatedly on the back with a club. "If I had been 20 years younger, they never could have entered", he cried from his prone position. A burning tire from the protest in the camp was dragged into his courtyard. His wife talked of being struck all over her body, one of her daughters being knocked unconscious and dragged by her hair. She spent three days at Shila.

The soldiers returned to his house the next day and found him laying flat on the mat. *"Are you still alive?"*, one soldier said whimsically, and then kicked him. More rounds were fired through the plastic roof in the bedrooms. *"I have seen the Turks, the British, the Jordanians and, for the last twenty years, the Israelis. It is time for us to have our own land. We have waited and suffered long enough"*, the ancient man demanded.

We continued to walk through the camp under the watchful eye of the



military lookouts in the tower. We were confronted at a distance by a horde of children, ranging from 4 to 16 years old. They seemed fearless. Hatred filled their young eyes. "Inta Yahud??" "Are you Jewish?"; I was quizzed more than once. Even the protestations by camp leaders serving as our guides did not convince some of them. When a few of the youngest children threw rocks at us, they were admonished by their older compatriots. As one man explained, "If you look European, they assume you are an Israeli. Even if you are a journalist, they are suspicious. The Israeli authorities have sent persons into the area looking like journalists. The next day people would be questioned and arrested on the basis of pictures taken by the "journalists" the day before. They have little reason to trust you"

We met an eleven year old boy who was picked up by a patrol and driven far from his village. He was bludgeoned and left in the rural area. He was found by a Bedouin woman who nursed him for three days and finally helped him find his way home. All this time his family had no way of knowing where he was, if he was alive.

Harassment never ends: RIGHTS, including the opportunity to establish an infrastructure for a country, a state. They reminded me that Americans do not, and cannot, know the daily realities of occupation. The details of such a life are never noticed.

There is also a seminal *economic* aspect of the occupation. The people on the West Bank and Gaza are beginning to establish their own economy rather than remaining a subservient economic entity. The current boycott is affecting the Israeli economy. An example given was that the one day strike inside the Green Line cost the Israeli economy 13 million. "You must see the Occupied Territories from the economic perspective", they contended that the VAT collects 250 million for the Israeli treasury, the income tax is about 20 per cent of income and the bridge to Jordan tax raised 50 million over the past 20 years for Israel. Deductions from Palestinian workers salaries who work in Israeli, money that will not be recovered by these "guest workers", is estimated at over 2 billion since 1967. The Occupied Territories have become a consumption market for Israeli, a captive market. The West Bank and Gaza are the second most important economic partner for Israel after US. More importantly the occupation and its exploitative economic policies have denied the West Bank and Gaza the opportunity of developing economic, social and political infrastructures. These are policies designed to undermine the creation of a nation-state.

Our host asserted that it is important that an international investigation be undertaken to evaluate the short-term and long-term effects of the several types of tear gas being used by the military in the Occupied Territories. At least one type that is often used is US made. It is a five inch aluminum cylinder that is fired from a weapon. It reads "Long range projectiles 150 Yards" (I never saw it used further away from the intended victims than 50 yards) "MKII 560 CS Federal Laboratories, Inc. Saltsburg, PA 15681 US" Also printed on the canister was the ominous warning: "For outdoor use only. Must NOT be fired directly at persons or indoors as death or injury may result". We heard

numerous testimonies from individuals detailing tear gas use at close range, fired directly at persons, and fired into closed rooms and homes. My brief interview with the mother in Ramallah clutching her 18 month old girl with the severely irritated skin, my meetings in Nablus, Ramallah, Gaza and Jerusalem confirmed that these weapons are being utilized in ways unintended by the manufacturer. By May the parent company of the gas manufacturer publicly stated that it was not sending any more of the gas to Israel since the storm of protest has contended that it was being used in deadly ways. There is no way to ascertain if such action will be taken or how much gas is already on order and "in the pipeline". The Palestine Human Rights Information Center in Jerusalem confirm numerous deaths of infants and the elderly as a result of exposure to gas in both closed and open space. These victims are NEVER included in casualty lists sanctioned by the Israeli Defence Force.

A contemporary Palestinian poster boldly declares that "Darkness Never Lasts". In the midst of this protracted story of the darkness of occupation, the Palestinian people have decided to seek light. They have stood up. That indomitable spirit is evident in the children of stones, in the merchants, the intellectual elite, the clergy from both faiths. It is alive in the field workers and the unskilled urban laborers. It lives amid the squalor of the camps and in the dreams and actions of 100 year old men and phalanx of Palestinian grandmothers. It is embodied in the students whose schools universities have been closed by the occupying power for over three months and who daily challenge the occupying army with rocks and their red, green black and white national banner. It is defiantly exhibited in the pride and economic efficiency of viable, self-help projects like Sameeha Khalil's *Inash al Usra* (now closed indefinitely by the IDF), the medical relief committees and the alternative educational systems being developed. These people are creating alternatives, new ways of approaching old problems. They are, in the tradition of the occupiers, "creating new facts".

Power is essentially a relational phenomenon in which A influences or controls the behavior of B for a multiplicity of reasons. It root is psychological. The people of the West Bank and Gaza have severed the power relationship that has governed their existence since the spectacular Israeli military victory in June 1967. For twenty years they essentially have proceeded on the seemingly incontestable premise that the occupier was invincible. The Israeli occupying authority set the terms for their relationship. Israelis acted, Palestinians reacted. Israelis confiscated much of the Occupied Territories for "security intersts", and the Palestinians lamented the injustice and hoped for divine intervention to reserve this protracted travesty. Some bravely resisted. They filled the jails and prisons, were exiled or killed. The embers of hope for Palestinian self-determination were preserved among the people and through the formation and activities of their leadership in exile, the Palestine Liberation Organization. But factionalism sapped the energy and power of the people and the PLO. These internecine conflicts confimed and preserved the "gospel of the Middle East according to Israeli".

When the uprising was ignited by the death of four Gazans in early December and the shabab took to the streets, the factional dissonance, so central to Israel's mode of effective occupation, was overcome. Even the Islamic movement, which is strong in Gaza, has accepted the proposition of Palestinian nationalism.

Since then the Palestinian people have stood up. They have, for the first time in 20 years in the areas of occupation, seized the initiative. They are responding to the challenge and humiliation by empowering themselves. This spirit is vibrant and growing stronger with each passing day, with each new casualty, with each expression of unity and determination NOT to return to the *status quo ante*. After months and countless Israeli pronouncements that the uprising has peaked, that it is winding down, that it is finished, the psychological break with the past, with the mechanics of the occupation, made by the Palestinian people of the West Bank and Gaza, remains unmet. A new power relationship is developing. Palestine is being molded each day by Palestinians.

6-27-1988

**C A A B U**

**Council for the Advancement of  
Arab-British Understanding**

**Bullets, Beatings  
and Gas**

**The Israeli Armys use of violence against  
Palestinian civilians during the Uprising  
in the West Bank and Gaza Strip**

**EXCERPTS FROM A BRIEFING**

**BULLETS, BEATINGS AND GAS**

## **VISIT FORM (case a)**

**DATE OF VISIT:**

28-2-88

**LOCATION:**

al-Shuyukh (near Sa'iir, northeast of Hebron)

**NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED:**

**NAME OF VICTIM:**

Ismail Hussein Halaika

**AGE:**

22

**OCCUPATION/SCHOOL:**

Ismail trained and was working as an electrician; he had finished his vocational matriculation exam 3 months ago.

**FAMILY STATUS AND MEMBERS:**

His father was a laborer but is old and disabled and doesn't work now. He had 4 brothers, aged 25, 15, 13 and 4. The 25-year-old has back trouble and is often in and out of hospital, and can't so Ismail was counted on to work to support the family. He had 3 sisters aged 28, 12, 10. The work 28-year-old had a baby the day before Isamil died. The baby died, and Ismail dug her grave. The family lost 2 dunums of land (about 1/2 acre) to Za'afaram settlement; only the land around their house remains in their possession.

**DATE OF INCIDENT:**

17-2-88

**LOCATION:**

al-Shuyukh

**WITNESSES:**

Villagers.

**Excerpts from a Report  
by CAABU  
Feb.-June, 1988**

## **DETAILS OF INCIDENTS:**

On Wednesday, February 17 at 8:30 am, a foot patrol of over 30 border guards walked into al-Shuyukh. (Border guards are recognized by the green berets they wear). Sa'iir, the neighboring village, was under curfew at the time. They had arrested over 15 people from Sa'iir, and people feared they were coming to al-Shuyukh to arrest more. There was a group of about 20 boys gathered in the street and several of them threw stones at the soldiers. The soldiers fired gas and rubber bullets at the boys. At some point, Ismail became separated from the rest of the boys, so that he was on one side of the street while the rest were on the other side. He had a stone in each hand when he was confronted by an officer wearing three stars. Ismail said to the officer: "Throw away your weapon. Come and see who will win the fight". He threw a stone, which hit the soldier on the shoulder. The soldier shot at him from 10 meters away and hit him just above the heart. Villagers pointed out that because he was isolated from the others, it is obvious the soldier intended to hit him; the shot was not random.

Ismail was not killed immediately. Soldiers would not allow anyone to come near him. At least 60 men, women and children were beaten with rifle butts or shot with rubber bullets when they attempted to help Ismail.

Later, 5 soldiers stripped down to their underwear and walked around the streets to harass girls in the neighborhood and keep them in their houses. Other soldiers were breaking house windows, and shouting at people not to open their doors. After about one and a half hours, a soldier lifted Ismail's arm and saw that he was dead. Then they left Ismail lying there.

No ambulance or car was permitted to take Ismail to the hospital for some time. A taxi driver tried to take him but he was stopped, the driver beaten up and his arm broken. Eventually, a private car took him through back roads. Sa'iir was still under curfew and there were soldiers there so it was impossible to go that way. Two and a half hours after being shot, Ismail's body arrived at Ali Hospital in Hebron, it was then taken to Mokassad Hospital in Jerusalem where he was pronounced dead on arrival. The body was released to the family. They buried him at 7:30 that night, with the whole village in attendance. There were no soldiers there. The next day two marches were held in the village.

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT:**

Dead on arrival

## **COMMENTS:**

According to villagers this was the first incident in al-Shuyukh; there had been no previous demonstrations. Four others were also seriously wounded in this incident. Mohammed Radi Ramadan Halaika was shot in the left and right stomach. One woman was badly beaten with a baton; a boy was shot in the shoulder and through his left cheek; a boy was shot in the elbow. Every person shot with live bullets was shot by the

officer wearing three stars who killed Ismail; the officer was apparently the only one with live ammunition.

Women from the village said they feel the border guards are the worst of the soldiers. They said when the soldiers break into their houses, they yell, "whores! Where are your men? You have no men! Why do you prostitute?".

## **VISIT FORM (case b)**

**DATE OF VISIT:**

14-2-88

**LOCATION:**

Gaza City, Gaza

**NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED:**

Abu Issa, relative of family

**NAME OF VICTIM:**

Khader Ilyas Fuad Tarazi

**AGE:**

19

**OCCUPATION/SCHOOL:**

Apprentice businessman

**FAMILY STATUS AND MEMBERS:**

Member of large, prominent Christian family in Gaza.

**DATE OF INCIDENT:**

28-2 / 10-2-88

**TIME:**

started at 2:30 pm.

**LOCATION:**

Gaza City

**WITNESSES:**

Umm Ayesh, people in Zaytun neighborhood, AMIDEAST employee, parents of family.

### **DETAILS OF INCIDENTS:**

On the afternoon of February 8 Khader took his bicycle and went out to go shopping. At 2:30 there was a demonstration in the Zaytuni quarter of the city, where his church is located. Khader tried to flee the area with his bicycle. The army attacked the area. Khader ran into a house to hide. Soldiers attacked the house, grabbed him and kicked him in the testicles and head. Six soldiers hit him with rifles and sticks all of this took place in front of 70-year-old Umm Ayesh, who received two punches when she tried to help the boy.

The soldiers then took him outside where they met another jeep. People in the neighborhood witnessing the event reported that the soldiers told the driver "we caught him and beat him" and the driver responded "finish his life". The soldiers beat him again at a crossroads,

put him in the jeep, and kicked his legs. They then took him to the detention center.

People notified Khader's parents of what they had seen and they went to the detention center to find him. While they were there, they were given his bicycle and told to see an officer who claimed ignorance and refused to tell them anything.

The next morning, February 9, between 9-10 am an Israeli officer from the military government went to the municipality and told a relative of the family working there that Khader was dead in Sarukha Hospital in Beersheba. When the news reached the family, the parents went again to the military headquarters. Authorities again said "We don't know", and admitted only that "He has fractures". A doctor from the family then went to military headquarters to ask officers for news. He was told "We have no definite news. We don't know if he's the boy. We'll tell you later".

It was not until 6:00 pm that the family received confirmation that Khader was indeed dead in Sarukha Hospital. An officer told the family to come the next morning at 9:00 with a priest to talk about funeral arrangements. The family made arrangements for a priest from Jerusalem to come the next day.

The next morning, February 10, the father went without the priest, who hadn't arrived yet, to see the military about the funeral. An officer told him: "We'll inform you about arrangements later; we're meeting about it now". At 1:00 the officer called back and told the family they could receive the body at 3:00.

At 2:00 people in sympathy with the family held a political gathering near the church. At 5:30 the parents finally received *their son's body*. They noted that *his head was cracked, both legs were broken, his hands were swollen, and his backbone was broken*. They took the body to the funeral that night. A huge crowd of people who had heard of the death gathered at the entrance to the church.

The army attacked the crowd assembled outside the funeral and fired teargas in the churchyard. Many people inside the church were affected and a number of people fainted from the teargas.

The family took the body to the graveyard, where the soldiers again fired teargas at the crowd. Finally, the family complained to the Red Cross and the UN who came and kept the army away until everyone left the church at 9:00 pm.

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT:**

Unknown, kept by military until death.

## **COMMENTS:**

To our knowledge, the military never explained or apologized to the family for the boy's death; the body was given without any explanation or discussion of what had happened.



## **VISIT FORM (case c)**

**DATE OF VISIT:**

14-2-88

**LOCATION:**

Jabalya refugee camp, Gaza

**NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED:**

Ali Hadi Abu Jaser

**AGE:**

34

**OCCUPATION/SCHOOL:**

Construction foreman in Tel Aviv

**FAMILY STATUS AND MEMBERS:**

15 family members living in the house.

**DATE OF INCIDENT:**

19-1-88

**TIME:**

5 A.M. to 10:30 AM.

**LOCATION:**

Home in Jabalya Camp

**WITNESSES:**

Family members

### **DETAILS OF INCIDENT**

At 5:00 am the camp was under curfew, and the family was in the house asleep. Soldiers came, pounding briefly on the door; the same thing happened at 7:00 a.m. At 10:00 a.m. Ali, 34, his brother Mohammed, 37, Atef, 20, and three nephews Adel, 26, Assad, 28 and Mahmoud, 22, were awakened by soldiers banging on the window. Ali, who speaks Hebrew, asked what they wanted. Soldiers began breaking windows. Ali again asked what they wanted and what a family of 15 was to do in the cold with no windows. The soldiers left and joined a gathering of soldiers about 100 meters up the street from the home. Ali followed them about 30 meters asking why they did what they did. A few dozen soldiers came at him waving their clubs. He retreated to the house they followed, banging on the door while shouting and threatening. Two soldiers jumped on the courtyard wall threatening to shoot unless he opened the door. He did and was beaten by soldiers on the spot. They hit him especially on the legs and knees. They took him to the street, continuing to beat him until he could not stand. Mohammed was also beaten severely. Assad was held spread-eagled by two soldiers while a third beat him on the chest. Atef, Mahmoud and Adel were also beaten. The army took Mohammed away, dumping him in front of the UN clinic; the family believes they were afraid he would die because he was unconscious and bleeding heavily. Soldiers swore at the family members and threatened to beat the entire family if they heard "Allahu Akbar" (God is the greatest) again in the streets.

Meanwhile, inside the house a group of soldiers had grabbed the 80-year-old father, holding him hostage so the women and children would open bedroom doors. Soldiers roughed up all the family members, threw broken glass at women and children (the youngest being 3 months old), and broke a radio, a tv, clocks, glass and doors. A pair of glasses and a watch were stolen; soldiers also took from the washing line trampled on it.

### **MEDICAL TREATMENT :**

First aid was given at the UN clinic to Mohammed. Remaining treatment was given at Shifa Hospital in Gaza :

- Mohammed : 25 stitches; x-rays revealed multiple knee fractures.
- Atel : 4 stitches on the leg.
- Mahmoud : unspecified number of stitches on the head, still cannot work.
- Ali : broken arm
- Adel : broken arm
- Assad : broken leg.

The six listed above had multiple bruises and swelling, especially on the arms and legs.

### **COMMENTS :**

The grandfather commented that during the British rule they and the Palestinians lived together peacefully, but during the Israeli occupation there is violence and death.

## **VISIT FORM (case d)**

### **DATE OF VISIT :**

26-2-88

### **LOCATION :**

Ittihad Hospital, Nablus

### **NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED :**

Spokeswoman for hospital, Basem Ahmed Abdel Halim (33yrs), hospital nurse.

### **DATE OF INCIDENT :**

24-2-88

### **TIME :**

Some time after 5:30 pm.

### **LOCATION :**

Ittihad Hospital

### **WITNESSES :**

Hospital staff, including two French doctors, patients, visitors

### **DETAILS OF INCIDENT**

Soldiers came to the hospital at about 5:30 pm on February 24 claiming that someone had fired a shot from the hospital. At this time

there was a road block on a street outside the hospital but there were no actual disturbances. The director of the hospital attempted to reason with the soldiers, explaining that no shot had been fired and that there were no weapons at the hospital.

The soldiers refused to listen. They entered the hospital delivery room first and then returned to the main building, where they broke the door, entered, and proceeded to carry out a search.

They invaded the main floor and maternity ward and began to beat the patients. One patient with an injured leg was beaten again in the place where he had already been injured. Soldiers pulled out the IV of a patient on the third floor recovering from an appendectomy and then dragged him down the hospital steps and outside to shops near the hospital entrance where he was beaten for several hours with rifle butts. The soldiers did not return his ID card to him until 8 pm. A woman in hospital for an operation was beaten when she tried to protect a visitor from beatings by hiding him. A pregnant woman was also beaten.

Six or seven soldiers kicked and beat Basem Ahmed Abdel Halim 33yrs. He had come to hospital with his younger brother who had been shot in the left shoulder in their home village of Mazra' Nubani in the Ramallah area. The two had to walk an hour towards the hospital before a passing car picked them up and brought them to hospital. Basem was still in Itihad Hospital on February 26. His left arm was broken and his eye, shoulder and abdominal area were severely bruised.

According to one head nurse interviewed, "They (the soldiers) entered the hospital like animals, arresting and beating the patients". Five nurses were in a nurses' room when 25 soldiers entered the room with their officer, who was in civilian clothes. The telephone was cut. The soldiers accused them of throwing stones. The nurses, who were in their hospital dress, explained that they were on-duty nurses and showed their ID cards.

The soldiers told the head nurse he would receive the most severe beating as he was in charge of the others. *They grabbed him by the hair and threw him against the wall. They hit him with clubs on the left and right arm.* The beating continued for about ten minutes. Then about thirty female nurses broke into the room in an attempt to defend the five. *Six or seven soldiers pushed the head nurse on the ground and walked on his chest in their heavy boots. The captain was among those who walked on him.* One of the four other male nurses beaten with the interviewee suffered from a fracture in his arm.

Five persons were taken from the hospital including two patients and three visitors. A Red Crescent ambulance was later called to come and pick them up from military headquarters in town. One remains in hospital.

Hospital windows and lockers were also broken by the soldiers.

The hospital spokesperson said that there were 100-150 soldiers spread throughout the hospital. One patient reported forty soldiers in his room. The four officers in charge of the operation were in the Emergency Room and were identified by name by hospital personnel.

*Among them was the captain of military intelligence for the Nablus area. The spokesperson pointed out that the excuse for the siege was clearly fabricated as the military could not even keep its story straight: contrary to the soldiers story about a gun being shot from the hospital, the captains claimed that a molotov cocktail had been thrown from the hospital.*

## **COMMENTS:**

Soldiers have surrounded the hospital on previous occasions, but this is the first time that soldiers have entered the hospital beyond the first floor. The door windows to the entrance of the hospital were broken several weeks ago.

## **VISIT FORM (case e)**

### **DATE OF VISIT:**

26-2-88

### **LOCATION:**

Balata refugee camp, near Nablus

### **NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED:**

Ayed, Maher, third brother (requested last names to be withheld).

### **NAME OF VICTIM:**

Ayed, Maher, third brother.

### **AGE:**

18, 23, 25

### **FAMILY STATUS AND MEMBERS:**

Single; married, 4 children; married, 3 children.

### **DATE OF INCIDENT:**

Sunday, 31-2-88

### **TIME:**

Evening.

### **LOCATION:**

Boulatta Camp, family home.

### **WITNESSES:**

Family.

## **DETAILS OF INCIDENT**

At about 6:00 pm on Sunday, Feb. 21, three brothers were sitting on the roof of their home warming themselves by a small fire they had built. Soldiers entered their home and 6 or 7 forced their way to the roof. Other soldiers were downstairs and outside. The three brothers were beaten with clubs and gun butts and shot with rubber bullets by the soldiers on the roof. The soldiers swore at them and cursed them in Arabic but made no accusations against them, nor did they give an explanation for their treatment of the three

After a half an hour the three brothers were taken to the entrance of the camp where there were 70-80 soldiers. They were forced to lie on their backs on the ground and 6 or 7 soldiers walked across their chests in heavy combat boots. They were again beaten with clubs, particularly on the joints and the heels and soles of their feet.

They were then put into a jeep and forced to put their faces down. Soldiers standing over them began to slice their necks and faces with razors, just enough to draw blood. When they tried to protect themselves with their hands, soldiers sliced their hands and wrists as well. They were taken to the police headquarters in Nablus (commonly known as "The Building").

At the police headquarters they were forced to stand with their faces to the wall and they were again beaten with clubs and guns and kicked. They were still given no explanation for their detention or for the abuse they received. After a half an hour they were asked for their ID cards. They could not present them as the soldiers had taken them and tossed them away during the first round of beatings on the roof. The three gave their names and their memorised numbers. They were again beaten.

After another hour or so they were put back in the same jeep with the same patrol that had originally detained them and driven to an alley near the entrance of the camp. Residents witnessing the scene from their house nearby said that this was at 7:30 pm. They were again beaten. At 18:15, when the neighbors came out to defend the three they escaped. (When asked how they could possibly escape after such horrible beatings they responded that it was a matter of survival; they had no choice). The soldiers fired rubber bullets after them and live bullets at the neighbors to disperse them.

The three were picked up by car and taken to Ittihad Hospital in Nablus.

### **MEDICAL TREATMENT :**

The three were x-rayed and treated for extensive cuts and bruises before being released. They could not be kept for further treatment, although it was preferred, because there was no room in the hospital.

- 18 yr old, several stitches in head area.
- 23 yr old, several stitches near eye.
- 25 yr old, 15 stitches in chin.

All, suffered severe bruising to various parts of the body including knees, arms, face, head, soles and heels of feet. All also suffered from dozens of razor cuts on their hands, necks and faces.

### **COMMENTS :**

Although this visit was made 5 days after the event, it was almost impossible to look at the brothers because their appearance was so

ghastly, They lay side by side on mattresses on the floor where they had remained since receiving hospital treatment. Their faces, necks and hands were covered with razor cuts.

## **VISIT FORM (case f)**

**DATE OF VISIT :**

11-2-88

**LOCATION :**

Arraba, southwest of Jenin

**NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED :**

Ziad Atari.

**NAME OF VICTIM :**

Ziad Atari.

**AGE :**

31

**OCCUPATION :**

UNRWA teacher in Askar refugee camp near Nablius

**FAMILY STATUS AND MEMBERS :**

Father of family of five.

**DATE OF INCIDENT :**

9-2-88

**LOCATION :**

Arraba, home

**WITNESSES :**

Children

### **DETAILS OF INCIDENT**

Ziad left his house at 7:00 am to take his cousin to hospital. He did not know there was a curfew but was warned by a little boy that he should go home because there were soldiers, so he returned home. However soldiers followed him and eighteen soldiers, accompanied by an intelligence officer, entered his house. They hit Ziad and told him to put his hands behind his back. When his children began to cry the soldiers instructed them to shut up.

The soldiers pointed to nine unwashed teacups left the night before as proof that nine young men were sleeping at Ziad's house. Ziad explained that nine people including his children and relatives live in the house, but the soldiers refused to listen. Ziad repeatedly told the soldiers that he was an UNRWA teacher but this had no effect on the soldiers either.

The soldiers took Ziad from the house and hit with clubs on the back, chest and stomach. A soldier then dragged him about a kilometer, while three others continued to beat him. En route the soldiers searched for other people and took Ziad's 22-year old cousin.

The two were taken to the center of town where about 30 others were also detained. There were a number of old men among them. All of them were forced to lie on the ground with their faces in the sun for one and a half hours. A military commander was present and there were also about five buses. Ziad estimated that there were some 500 soldiers. Soldiers dragged some chairs from a nearby barber shop and from the rubbish heap and erected a makeshift interrogation center.

At about 1:00 pm a 22-year-old man next to Ziad who knew Hebrew heard a soldier say "Seven to Fara'a, seven to Jenin..." The youth began to cry, saying "We're going to prison".

Ziad was interrogated and instructed to bring the young men to the military. Ziad insisted that he was teacher and this was not his job. The interrogator hit him on the nose with a club. They returned his identity card but not his UNRWA card. When Ziad told them he taught at Askar refugee camp, the interrogator "went crazy" and said "I must see you again".

The head of the village intervened on Ziad's behalf, explaining he was a teacher. The military commander retorted that "If you can't govern this town, I will".

Finally, Ziad and 18 other men were released. Ten others were taken to Jenin station where they remained untreated for their wounds until the evening, when were released. There others were taken to Fara'a prison.

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT:**

Ziad was examined by doctors in the village. His leg, now bandaged may need physiotherapy. His chest is badly bruised and the doctors fear he may have two cracked ribs. Ziad had a bad chest prior to the beating incident. He told the soldiers this and felt it only caused them to beat him harder on the chest. His urine is bloody.

## **COMMENTS:**

# **VISIT FORM (case g)**

### **DATE OF VISIT:**

28-2-88

### **LOCATION:**

Shufat refugee camp, only refugee camp included in annexed East Jerusalem.

### **NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED:**

Abdallah Ali Yusuf Ishir.

### **NAME OF VICTIM:**

Abdallah Ali Ishir.

### **AGE:**

32

**OCCUPATION/SCHOOL:**

Truck driver.

**FAMILY STATUS AND MEMBERS:**

Married, with 10 children all under 14 yrs.

**DATE OF INCIDENT:**

11-2-88, 11-3-88

**TIME:**

Morning.

**LOCATION:**

Shufat refugee camp.

**WITNESSES:****DETAILS OF INCIDENT**

Early in the day Abdallah went to a coffee house. From the coffee house, he saw a blue-plated Peugeot drive up with men dressed as police inside. They got out of the car and started chasing people and shooting at them with rubber bullets and live ammunition. Abdallah ran out and was chased by 7 or 8 men into a larger group of soldiers.

About 30 soldiers and police took Abdallah down into a valley below the camp and beat him. Abdallah's father tried to follow and rescue his son, but soldiers threatened to beat him as well, so he ran off. Abdallah said they hit him with sticks. They hit his head about 50 times and left a 4 cm cut which was later stitched. They also left a 7 cm cut on his left leg and an 8 cm cut on his right leg. Someone who saw this beating thought Abdallah had been killed and went to hospital to retrieve his body.

The soldiers then took Abdallah to the Coca Cola plant outside the camp where they beat him on the temples. One soldier held out Abdallah's arm and another one hit it, breaking it in two places.

When the soldiers beating Abdallah saw that his condition was serious, they put him in a jeep and threw water on him to revive him. An officer asked if he understood Hebrew and he said no although he does. The officer then said to another soldier in Hebrew, "Why did you bring him here?" It would be better for you to shoot him and throw him in a hole".

The jeep then took Abdallah to the Jerusalem police headquarters where detainees are interrogated. En route, a press car was behind the jeep, and one soldier told another not to beat Abdallah because the press would see.

Some of those who beat Abdallah in the valley were waiting for him in Room 4, where he was taken at the headquarters. They continued beating him.

Abdallah's brother, Mohammed came to the headquarters and asked for Abdallah but was told he wasn't there. However, Mohammed heard Abdallah screaming and said that was him. The receptionist insisted there was no one there, but Mohammed went into Room 4 anyway. Abdallah was lying on the floor, and a soldier said, "He's OK. We didn't do anything to him", B then picked up Abdallah, who was spitting up



blood, to show that he was OK. Mohammed and another brother took Abdallah out past a policeman who spat in his face. Mohammed was told to return Abdallah for questioning on Sunday.

The brothers tried to stop a car, but one with yellow plates (indicating ownership by residents from Jerusalem or inside Israel) refused to stop. Finally a friend rented a car and took them to Moqassad Hospital in Jerusalem.

Abdallah was treated (see below) and released despite the fact that he required further treatment because there was no room for him in the hospital. (There were already people in beds in the corridors). He went to his father's house to let him know he was alive, and slept there.

The next day, there were demonstrations in the camp. Abdallah was alone in the house when soldiers came running in seeking demonstrators. They broke all the windows and all glass objects inside the house. They spilled all the food out onto the floor. Then they came into Abdallah's room and asked if there was anyone else there. He said no. They told him to get out of bed. When he said he couldn't because he was hurt, a soldier said "Fine, stay there", and they proceeded to beat him in bed. They broke his right arm in a third place, and fractured his shoulder blade and leg. When they broke his arm again, Abdallah said, "Go ahead and beat me, I have ten children and they each have two arms". Then a soldier hit him in his groin and said, "There; that's so you won't have ten more".

Then they left, throwing a tear gas cannister into the house after them. Abdallah got himself out of the house and a relative called an ambulance which took him to Moqassad Hospital.

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT :**

Incident 1 — Abdallah required stitches in the head and a cast for his arm which was broken in two places. Before the incident he had trouble with his eyes, but could distinguish colors. Now he can no longer distinguish colors. The doctor said Abdallah should stay in hospital, but there was no room for him.

Incident 2 — Abdallah was treated at Moqassad Hospital and then transferred to intensive care at nearby Augusta Victoria Hospital. His right arm was broken in a third place and his shoulder blade and leg were fractured.

## **COMMENTS:**

During the five day curfew of the camp just prior to the above incidents (Feb. 6-10) soldiers shot chickens, teargassed goats, and at one point some tried to ride a two-month-old donkey. It couldn't carry them so they shot it.

## VISIT FORM (case h)

**DATE OF VISIT:**

26-1-88

**LOCATION:**

Issawitya, several kilometers north of Jerusalem.

**NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED:**

Na'ame Ali Atiyah Hassan.

**AGE:**

25

**OCCUPATION/SCHOOL:**

Housewife.

**FAMILY STATUS AND MEMBERS:**

son (2 yrs), daughter (1yr), husband day laborer in Israel.

**DATE OF INCIDENT:**

21-12-88

**TIME:**

around 12:30 pm.

**LOCATION:**

Issawiya, Na'ame's mother's house.

**WITNESSES:**

Na'ame's sister and mother.

### DETAILS OF INCIDENT

Na'ame was at her mother's house when she heard a demonstration outside. She went immediately outside to find her children and bring them inside. She was climbing the stairs to the gate in the walled-in yard when she saw five soldiers. One soldier was just on the other side of the wall, about a meter away from her. Without warning he shot a teargas cannister directly at her. It hit her in the side. She immediately fell and lost consciousness for several minutes. When she came to she crawled back down the steps to the doorway of the house. The soldier tried to follow her and fired another teargas cannister through the window of a room in the house where, unbeknown to Na'ame, her two children were sleeping. He then proceeded to break the house windows with his rifle butt.

Because of all the teargas, there was general confusion in the house and the people thought Na'ame was suffering only from overexposure to the tear gas. It wasn't until they dragged her in through the door and she pointed to her side that they saw swelling and bruises on her side. Because the house was surrounded by soldiers, they tried to get her out to go to the hospital through the kitchen window. In the meantime her sister stood on the roof and tried to keep the soldiers from entering the house and preventing Na'ame's rescue. She told them that they should go away, that there were no men in the house, but the soldiers pushed her aside insisting that there were. The soldiers threw a third tear gas

annister through a vent in the roof into the small washroom next to the kitchen.

It took the family an hour and a half to get Na'ame out of the house in order to take her to hospital. Her cousin panicked and began yelling "Na'ame's going to die! She's been wounded! and people ran quickly to fetch a car. When it arrived, the army came and smashed all the glass in the car and said to the driver, "let her die, you go down and remove the stones off the street".

Another car drove by to take her. The soldiers beat the second driver, smashed the glass in his car and said, "You are not going to help her — let her die in her house". The driver kept going anyway. A jeep full of soldiers drove along beside the car all the way to the hospital, trying to hit the car. Instead they hit Na'ame's mother, who kept her arm out the window to keep them from hitting Na'ame. At Moqassad Hospital in Jerusalem the soldiers beat the driver again, repeating, "Who told you to drive her? Let her die at home".

While Na'ame was in the hospital, her brother called the police at the advice of the doctor. The police inquired where she was and he informed them that she was in surgery. They instructed him to bring her to police headquarters in Jerusalem for interrogation when she was released from hospital.

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT:**

When Na'ame arrived at the hospital she was completely white and was bleeding out of her mouth. One kidney and part of her liver were removed. She suffered smashed organs and had severe internal bleeding. She was kept in hospital for 11 days initially (6 in the recovery room). After 3 days she had to return to hospital because she suffered pains when she ate. X-rays of her intestines showed partial blockage from blood clotting due to further internal bleeding. She remained in hospital for another week.

Doctors have prescribed 60 days of rest for Na'ame. She must also go to hospital weekly to be checked for internal bleeding and further liver complications. She cannot get pregnant for two years for fear of liver inflammation. If, after two years she does get pregnant she may have to have a caesarean although she delivered her first two children normally. She hasn't had a period since the injury because her glands were affected. She suffers from headaches because of the damage to her liver and glands. Although she is insured, Moqassad Hospital, which treats all victims of the current uprising free of charge, has had to pay over US 7,500 for treatment not covered by her insurance.

She, her husband and her children currently staying at her mother's house as she cannot yet care for herself or her children. There are a total of 16 people staying in the 4-room house). Her mother has to bathe her and she cannot hold her children, because it is still too painful.

Na'ame has also shown signs of psychological distress following her injury. A week ago Israeli security men beat up a 12-year-old boy from the village and demanded that he pointed randomly at various houses in the village. The security men then went through the village throwing

rocks and banging and breaking the windows of the houses he had indicated. When Na'ame heard the rampage she panicked and began to scream and cry uncontrollably. Her family was unable to calm her.

## **COMMENTS:**

The family hopes to file charges against the military and has hired Israeli attorney Felicia Langer to represent them. They are waiting for a complete medical report before pursuing the case in military court. They will then try civilian court. The doctors are unwilling to release the medical report until they are more certain of her recovery and can give a more complete account of the results her injuries.

## **VISIT FORM (case i)**

### **DATE OF VISIT:**

31-1-88

### **LOCATION:**

Nuseirat Camp, Gaza

### **NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED:**

Ahmed Abdel Wahab.

### **NAME OF VICTIM:**

Abdel Wahab family.

### **AGE:**

Ahmed (45), Sahar (1)

### **OCCUPATION/SCHOOL:**

Shopkeeper

### **FAMILY STATUS AND MEMBERS:**

### **DATE OF INCIDENT:**

1-1-88

### **TIME:**

9:00 am.

### **LOCATION:**

Nuseirat Camp.

### **WITNESSES:**

## **DETAILS OF INCIDENT**

On December 31, 1987, Ahmed, a 45 year old shopkeeper, was in his house in Nuseirat Camp. A group of youths from the camp were demonstrating nearby. At about 1 pm he heard a ring at the door and went to see who was there. He opened the door slightly to find a group of soldiers and immediately attempted to close the door. As Ahmed tried to close the door, the soldiers on the other side tried to force it open. Eventually the soldiers succeeded and eight soldiers forced their way into the house. They straightaway set about beating Ahmed with sticks and gun butts, and kicked him.

After a 10 minute beating the soldiers left, firing three tear gas cannisters into the house as they did so. Sahar, Ahmed's 1 year 4 month old daughter, was severely affected by the gas. Her face turned bright red and she had grave difficulties in breathing. Seeing this, the commander of the group who had just beaten her father, went into the kitchen, took an onion and cut it in half. He went to Sahar and thrust the onion into her face to counteract the effects of the gas. He then took the girl, showed her to her mother, and said to the mother, "Look, your daughter's not dead".

The soldiers then left the house. A short while later they returned, saying to Ahmed, who was still unable to move on the floor, "Are you still here?", whereupon they removed him, dressed in his pyjamas, to the jeep waiting outside. He was beaten again on the way to the camp entrance.

From about 1:30 pm on January 1 until noon the next day, he was kept outside at the entrance in almost continuous, torrential rain. He was unable to move on account of the beating, and was shaking uncontrollably. From his arrival at the entrance until 6:00 pm he was subjected to continued beating. He was forced to kneel with his head on the ground and soldiers kicked him and beat him with clubs. At one point he asked one of the soldiers if he could be moved to a wall or under the military bus nearby in order to try and keep dry. The soldier said he would ask his commanding officer and when he did so was told that if he felt pity for this Palestinian then he should go stand in the rain with him.

At 6:00 pm an officer came and ordered the release of some of the other detainees. He said to Ahmed, however, that as he had tried to deny the soldiers entry to his house, he could stay the night out in the rain. At night the soldiers, some of whom had taken part in beating Ahmed, made a fire and put Ahmed next to it to try and keep warm. They also gave him some soup. The fire burned a large hole in Ahmed's pyjamas, but because of the effects of his beating and the cold he was unable to feel it.

The next day at noon, he was taken in a convoy of military vehicles, including an APC, jeeps and a large troop carrying jeep to a street near his house. The soldiers then unloaded him from the vehicle, carried him to his house, opened the door, and literally threw him inside. They laughed among themselves and left with the parting remark, "When we come next time and knock you open the door, OK?".

The next three days he lay on the floor unable to speak or to move. Because the camp was under curfew he was unable to leave to get medical treatment. After three days he managed to leave the camp for hospital.

## **MEDICAL TREATMENT:**

Ahmed was treated for severe bruising, particularly on his back, and for two broken ribs. Medication and dressing were required. Doctors also told him to lie flat in bed and not move for two weeks.

## **COMMENTS:**

Three weeks later the bruising was still evident and still required medication and dressing.

## **VISIT FORM (case i)**

### **DATE OF VISIT:**

26-1-88

### **LOCATION:**

Am'ari refugee camp, next to Ramallah.

### **NAME OF PERSON INTERVIEWED:**

Lutfiya and Abdel Nasser el-Misri.

### **NAME OF VICTIM:**

Lutfiya and Abdel Nasser el-Misri.

### **AGE:**

42, 20

### **OCCUPATION/SCHOOL:**

Mother; recent graduate of Islamic Vocational training center, not yet able to begin work.

### **FAMILY STATUS AND MEMBERS:**

Husband/father dead; Nasser and 1 other brother only potential source of income; several young children.

### **DATE OF INCIDENT:**

About 3 weeks prior to visit.

### **TIME:**

### **LOCATION:**

Outside camp, returning from Jerusalem.

### **WITNESSES:**

## **DETAILS OF INCIDENT**

Nasser, who was returning home from Jerusalem, didn't realize the camp was under curfew. Soldiers followed him and confiscated his identity card (ID). For over a week Nasser went from military headquarters to the police to the court and back again in an attempt to retrieve his ID but the authorities insisted they did not have it. (Palestinians over 16 are required to carry their ID at all times). Finally he was permitted to apply for a new ID but then the authorities refused to issue it.

Last Friday he returned to the police station to attempt, once again, to pick up his new ID. Police informed him that he had come for nothing as there was no one there who could help him. They reassured him that the request form he had with him was sufficient for ID purposes and that he should not worry. Believing them, he left. Immediately outside the police station he was stopped by a soldier demanding his ID. The soldier refused to accept the paper and began to hit him in the head and stomach and force him against the wall of the police station. He yelled

to the police to rescue him and the soldier let him go.

**DATE OF INCIDENT :**

20-1-88.

**TIMES :**

2:30 pm.

**LOCATION :**

Am'ari refugee camp, home.

**WITNESSES :**

Family members.

**DETAILS OF INCIDENTS: 2**

Nasser was repairing the outside door to his family home which had been broken by soldiers. Soldiers entered demanding to know where "the boys were hiding" as there had allegedly been a gathering before. Finding no young boys, they began to beat Nasser and intended to take him. At the same time soldiers just up the street began to chase Hamdi Filayfel so the soldiers left Nasser to beat up Hamdi.

**DATE OF INCIDENT :**

23-1-88, Sat.

**TIMES :**

**LOCATION :**

Am'ari refugee camp, home.

**WITNESSES :**

Family members.

**DETAILS OF INCIDENTS: 3**

Nasser was sitting on his inside when he heard banging at the door. Soldiers forced the door open and went into the kitchen and began to hit two of Nasser's younger brothers with clubs. When they noticed Nasser they let go of the boys and began to yell and curse at him and blame him for troubles outside. Lutliya began to yell back that he could not possibly have done anything because he couldn't leave the house because they had taken his ID. A soldier struck her on her wrist which is still bandaged.

Soldiers then took Nasser. His mother Lutliya tried to follow but soldiers closed the door on her and tried to hit her head. The soldiers beat Nasser in the street. His head was cut and blood began to gush out. Lutliya continued screaming for him and tried to follow but fell and soldiers took Nasser away in a jeep to another location in the camp.

A camera crew appeared and the soldiers commanded Nasser to turn his head so journalists wouldn't see his wound. A soldier tried to wipe the blood from Nasser's face with his own sleeve Nasser was repeatedly transferred from patrol to patrol. He explained that this was done to free the biggest and most brutal soldiers to beat more boys.

Finally soldiers put Nasser in an empty military bus outside the camp. The bus was filthy and smelled of alcohol and vomit. He was

dizzy and kept trying to sit down, but soldiers forced him to go to the back of the bus and then forced him to sit on the floor of the bus rather than the seat. Five soldiers took turns cursing him. They began to jump on his feet in their heavy boots. He was only wearing his house slippers.

Lutfiya continued to follow her son's trail. "I did not even notice the tear gas, or the pain from where they had hit me", she said. When she demanded her son soldiers told her that they wanted to treat him for his injuries. She continued to demand her son. Several soldiers in a jeep outside tired of her and yelled to the soldiers in the bus to bring Nasser but the soldiers in the bus did not respond. Lutfiya still refused to leave saying, "Take me to hospital with him, take me to prison with him".

Inside the bus Nasser's head continued to bleed. After 30-45minutes the soldiers brought him out from the bus. Another group of soldiers wanted to take him again, however a skirmish broke out nearby and Lutfiya took her son home and a neighbor who drives an ambulance took them to the Ramallah Hospital.

### **MEDICAL TREATMENT:**

Directly following the last beating incident Nasser was treated at Ramallah Hospital for beatings on various parts of his body, and received 4 stitches on his head.

Lutfiya was treated for excessive exposure to tear gas. Both have remained in bed since the day of the incident.

### **COMMENTS:**

Both Lutfiya and Nasser were clearly exhausted and it was an effort for them to complete the interview. When one tired the other took up the story. They wanted the people outside to know their story.







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